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(54) Title: GLIAL MITOGENIC FACTORS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE			
(57) Abstract <p>The invention provides new Schwann Cell-mitogenic factors of molecular weight 30 to 36 and 55 to 63 kilodaltons, respectively, when isolated by SDS-PAGE. The invention provides therapeutic formulations comprising the new factors, and the use of the factors and those formulations in treating conditions which involve a factor-sensitive or factor-responsive cell type.</p>			

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Glial Mitogenic Factors, Their Preparation and Use

This invention relates to new polypeptides found in vertebrate species, which polypeptides are mitogenic growth factors, e.g. having activity on cultured Schwann cells. The invention is also concerned, inter alia, with a novel isolation process capable of producing such factors, and the therapeutic application of such factors. The invention further includes useful peptides characteristic of such factors.

The glial cells of vertebrates constitute the specialized connective tissue of the central and peripheral nervous systems. Important glial cells include Schwann cells which provide myelin sheathing around the axons of neurones, thereby forming individual nerve fibres. Schwann cells provide a sheath effect by forming concentric layers of membrane around adjacent neurone axons, twisting as they develop around the axons. These myelin sheaths are a susceptible element of many nerve fibres, and damage to Schwann cells, or failure in growth and development, can be associated with significant demyelination or nerve degeneration characteristic of a number of peripheral nervous system diseases and disorders. In the development of the nervous system, it has become apparent that cells require various factors to regulate their division and growth, and various such factors have been identified in recent years, including some found to have an effect on Schwann cell division or development.

Thus, Brockes et al., inter alia, in J. Neuroscience, 4 (1984), No 1, 75-83 describe a protein growth factor present in extracts from bovine brain and pituitary tissue, which was named Glial Growth Factor (GGF). This factor stimulated cultured rat Schwann cells to divide against a background medium containing ten percent foetal

5 calf serum. The factor was also described as having a molecular weight of 31,000 and as readily dimerizing. In Meth. Enz., 147 (1987), 217-225, Brockes describes a Schwann cell-based assay for the factor, and emphasises that in purification of the factor the use of reversed-phase HPLC using trifluoroacetic acid as an ion pairing agent must be avoided if biological activity is to be retained.

10 The J. Neuroscience article of Brockes et al., *supra*, describes methods of purification of GGF to apparent homogeneity. In brief, one large-scale purification method described involves extraction of the lyophilized bovine anterior lobes and chromatography of material obtained thereby using NaCl gradient elution from CM-cellulose. Gel filtration is then carried out with an Ultrogel column, followed by elution from a phosphocellulose column, and finally, small-scale SDS gel electrophoresis. Alternatively, the CM-cellulose

15 material was applied directly to a phosphocellulose column, fractions from the column were pooled and purified by preparative native gel electrophoresis, followed by a final SDS gel electrophoresis.

20 Brockes et al. observe that in previously reported gel filtration experiments (Brockes et al., J. Biol. Chem. 255 (1980) 8374-8377), the major peak of growth factor activity was observed to migrate with a molecular weight of 56,000, whereas in the first of the above-described

25 procedures activity was predominantly observed at molecular weight 31,000. It is reported that the GGF dimer is largely removed as a result of the gradient elution from CM-cellulose in this procedure.

30 In PNAS, 82 (1985), 3930-3934, Benveniste et al. describe a T lymphocyte-derived glial growth promoting factor. This factor, under reducing conditions, exhibits a change

in apparent molecular weight on SDS gels.

5 In Nature, 348 (1990), 257-260, Kimura et al. describe a factor they term Schwannoma-derived growth factor (SDGF) obtained from a sciatic nerve sheath tumour. The authors state that SDGF does not stimulate the incorporation of tritium-labelled TdR into cultured Schwann cells under conditions where, in contrast, partially purified pituitary fraction containing GGF is active. SDGF has an 10 apparent molecular weight of between 31,000 and 35,000.

15 In J. Cell. Biol., 110 (1990), 1353-1360, Davis et al. describe the screening of a number of candidate mitogens. Rat Schwann cells were used, the chosen candidate substances being examined for their ability to stimulate DNA synthesis in the Schwann cells in the presence of 10% FCS (foetal calf serum), with and without forskolin. One of the factors tested was GGF-carboxymethyl cellulose fraction (GGF-CM), which was mitogenic in the presence of 20 FCS, with and without forskolin. The work revealed that in the presence of forskolin, *inter alia*, platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) was a potent mitogen for Schwann cells, PDGF having previously been thought to have no effect on Schwann cells.

25 One aspect of the present invention is new glial growth factors which are distinguished from known factors, including the above, which factors are mitogenic for Schwann cells against a background of foetal calf plasma (FCP). The invention also provides processes for the preparation of these factors, and an improved method for defining activity of these and other factors.

30 Therapeutic application of the factors is a further significant aspect of the invention.

35

Thus, important aspects of the invention are:-

5 (a) a basic polypeptide factor having mitogenic activity stimulating the division of Schwann cells in the presence of foetal calf plasma, a molecular weight of from about 30 kD to about 36 kD, and including within its amino acid sequence any one or more of the following peptide sequences:

10 F K G D A H T E
A S L A D E Y E Y M X K
T E T S S S G L X L K
A S L A D E Y E Y M R K
A G Y F A E X A R
T T E M A S E Q G A
A K E A L A A L K
15 F V L Q A K K
E T Q P D P G Q I L K K V P M V I G A Y T
E Y K C L K F K W F K K A T V M
E X K F Y V P
K L E F L X A K; and

20 (b) a basic polypeptide factor having mitogenic activity stimulating the division of Schwann cells in the presence of foetal calf plasma, a molecular weight of from about 55 kD to about 63 kD, and including within its amino acid sequence any one or more of the following peptide sequences:

30 V H Q V W A A K
Y I F F M E P E A X S S G
L G A W G P P A F P V X Y
W F V V I E G K
A S P V S V G S V Q E L V Q R
V C L L T V A A P P T
K V H Q V W A A K
35 K A S L A D S G E Y M X K
D L L L X V

The novel peptide sequences set out above, 12 derived from the smaller molecular weight polypeptide factor, and 9 from the larger molecular weight polypeptide factor, are also aspects of this invention in their own right.

5 These sequences are useful, inter alia, as probe sources for polypeptide factors of the invention, for investigating, isolating or preparing such factors (or corresponding gene sequences) from a range of different species, or preparing such factors by recombinant
10 technology, and in the generation of corresponding antibodies, by conventional technologies, preferably monoclonal antibodies, which are themselves useful investigative tools in relation to the present factors and are possible medicaments. Such antibodies are
15 included within this invention. The invention also includes an isolated glial cell mitogenic activity encoding gene sequence, or fragment thereof, obtainable by the use set out above for the novel peptide sequences of the invention.

20 The availability of short peptides from the highly purified factors of the invention has enabled (as will be seen hereinafter) additional sequence to be determined.

25 Thus, the invention further embraces a polypeptide factor having glial cell mitogenic activity and including an amino acid sequence encoded by:-

30 (a) a DNA sequence shown in any one of Figures 28a, 28b or 28c;

(b) a DNA sequence shown in Figure 22;

35 (c) the DNA sequence represented by nucleotides 281-557 of the sequence shown in Figure 28a; or

(d) a DNA sequence hybridizable to any one of the

DNA sequences according to (a), (b) or (c).

Whilst the present invention is not limited to a particular set of hybridization conditions, the following 5 protocol gives general guidance which may, if desired, be followed:-

Thus, DNA probes may be labelled to high specific activity (approximately 10^8 to 10^9 ^{32}P .dmp/ μg) by nick-translation or by PCR reactions according to Schowalter 10 and Sourer (Anal. Bischen., 177, 90-94, 1989) and purified by desalting on G-150 Sephadex columns. Probes may be denatured (10 minutes in boiling water followed by 15 immersion into ice water), then added to hybridization solutions of 80% buffer B (2g polyvinylpyrrolidine, 2g Ficoll-400, 2g bovine serum albumin, 50ml 1M Tris HCl(pH 7.5) 58g NaCl, 1g sodium pyrophosphate, 10g sodium dodecyl sulfate, 950ml H_2O) containing 10% dextran sulfate at 10^6 dpm ^{32}P per ml and incubated overnight 20 (say, 16 hours) at 60°C. The filters may then be washed at 60°C, first in buffer for 15 minutes followed by three 20-minute washes in 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS then one for 20 minutes in 1x SSC, 0.1% SDS.

25 In other respects, the invention provides:

(a) a basic polypeptide factor which has, if obtained from bovine pituitary material, an observed 30 molecular weight, whether in reducing conditions or not, of from about 30 kD to about 36 kD on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using the following molecular weight standards:

	Lysozyme (hen egg white)	14,400
35	Soybean trypsin inhibitor	21,500
	Carbonic anhydrase (bovine)	31,000
	Ovalbumin (hen egg white)	45,000

Bovine serum albumin	66,200
Phosphorylase B (rabbit muscle)	97,400;

5 which factor has mitogenic activity stimulating the division of rat Schwann cells in the presence of foetal calf plasma, and when isolated using reversed-phase HPLC retains at least 50% of said activity after 10 weeks incubation in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid at 4°C; and

10 (b) a basic polypeptide factor which has, if obtained from bovine pituitary material, an observed molecular weight, under non-reducing conditions, of from about 55 kD to about 63 kD on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using the following molecular weight 15 standards:

Lysozyme (hen egg white)	14,400
Soybean trypsin inhibitor	21,500
Carbonic anhydrase (bovine)	31,000
20 Ovalbumin (hen egg white)	45,000
Bovine serum albumin	66,200
Phosphorylase B (rabbit muscle)	97,400;

25 which factor has mitogenic activity stimulating the division of rat Schwann cells in the presence of foetal calf plasma, and when isolated using reversed-phase HPLC retains at least 50% of said activity after 4 days incubation in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid at 4°C.

30 For convenience of description only, the lower molecular weight and higher molecular weight factors of this invention are referred to hereinafter as "GGF-I" and "GGF-II", respectively.

35 It will be appreciated that the molecular weight range limits quoted are not exact, but are subject to slight variation depending, inter alia, upon the source of the

particular polypeptide factor. A variation of, say, about 10% would not, for example, be impossible for material from another source.

5 Another important aspect of the invention is a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having glial cell mitogenic activity and comprising:-

10 (a) a DNA sequence shown in any one of Figures 28a, 28b or 28c;

(b) a DNA sequence shown in Figure 22;

15 (c) the DNA sequence represented by nucleotides 281-557 of the sequence shown in Figure 28a; or

(d) a DNA sequence hybridizable to any one of the DNA sequences according to (a), (b) or (c).

20 The invention includes any modifications or equivalents of the above two polypeptide factors which do not exhibit a significantly reduced activity. For example, modifications in which amino acid content or sequence is altered without substantially adversely affecting activity are included. By way of illustration, in EP-A-109748 muteins of native proteins are disclosed in which the possibility of unwanted -S-S- bonding is avoided by replacing any cysteine in the native sequence not necessary for biological activity with a neutral amino acid. The statements of effect and use contained herein are therefore to be construed accordingly, with such uses and effects employing modified or equivalent factors as aforesaid being part of the invention.

35 The new sequences of the invention open up the benefits of recombinant technology. The invention thus also includes the following aspects:-

5 (a) a DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence as defined above in operable reading frame position in a vector under the control of a control sequence so as to permit expression of said sequence in chosen host cells after transformation thereof by said construct (preferably said control sequence includes a regulatable promoter, e.g. Trp) - it will be appreciated that the selection of a promoter and regulatory sequences (if any) are matters of choice for those of skill in the art;

15 (b) host cells modified by incorporating a construct as defined in (a) immediately above so that said DNA sequence may be expressed in said host cells - the choice of host is not critical, and chosen cells may be prokaryotic or eukaryotic and may be genetically modified to incorporate said construct by methods known in the art; and

20 (c) a process for the preparation of a factor as
defined above comprising cultivating said modified host
cells under conditions permitting expression of said DNA
sequence, which conditions can be readily determined, for
any particular embodiment, by those of skill in the art
25 of recombinant DNA technology. Glial cell mitogens
prepared by this means are included in the present
invention.

30 None of the factors described in the art has the combination of characteristics possessed by the present new polypeptide factors.

As indicated, the Schwann cell assay in part used to characterise the present factors employs a background of foetal calf plasma. In all other respects, the assay can be the same as that described by Brockes et al. in Meth. Enz., supra, but with 10% FCP replacing 10% FCS. This

difference in assay technique is significant, since the absence of platelet-derived factors in foetal calf plasma (as opposed to serum) enables a more rigorous definition of activity on Schwann cells to be provided by 5 eliminating potentially spurious effects from some other factors.

Yet a further aspect of the invention is a process for the preparation of a polypeptide as defined above, 10 comprising extracting vertebrate brain material to obtain protein, subjecting the resulting extract to chromatographic purification comprising hydroxylapatite HPLC and thereafter to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and collecting that fraction therefrom 15 which has an observed molecular weight of about 30 kD to 36 kD and/or that fraction which has an observed molecular weight of about 55 kD to 63 kD if, in either case, subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using the following molecular weight standards:

20

	Lysozyme (hen egg white)	14,400
	Soybean trypsin inhibitor	21,500
	Carbonic anhydrase (bovine)	31,000
	Ovalbumin (hen egg white)	45,000
25	Bovine serum albumin	66,200
	Phosphorylase B (rabbit muscle)	97,400;

in the case of the aforesaid smaller molecular weight fraction whether in reducing conditions or not, and in 30 the case of the aforesaid larger molecular weight fraction under non-reducing conditions, and which fraction(s) exhibit(s) activity stimulating the division of rat Schwann cells against a background of foetal calf plasma.

35

Preferably, the above process starts by isolating a relevant fraction obtained by carboxymethyl cellulose

chromatography, eg from bovine pituitary material. It is also preferred that after hydroxylapatite HPLC, cation exchange chromatography, gel filtration, and/or reversed-phase HPLC be employed prior to the SDS-Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. At each stage in the process, activity may be determined using Schwann cell incorporation of radioactive iododeoxyuridine as a measure in an assay generally as described by Brockes in Meth. Enz., supra, but modified by substituting 10% FCP for 10% FCS. As already noted, such an assay is an aspect of the invention in its own right when applied generally to the assay of any substance for CNS or PNS cell, eg Schwann cell, mitogenic effects.

15 Thus, the invention also includes an assay for glial cell mitogenic activity in which a background of foetal calf plasma is employed against which to assess DNA synthesis in glial cells stimulated (if at all) by a substance under assay.

20 Another aspect of the invention is a pharmaceutical or veterinary formulation comprising any factor as defined above formulated for pharmaceutical or veterinary use, respectively, optionally together with an acceptable diluent, carrier or excipient and/or in unit dosage form.

25 In using the factors of the invention, conventional pharmaceutical or veterinary practice may be employed to provide suitable formulations or compositions.

30 Thus, the formulations of this invention can be applied to parenteral administration, for example, intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraorbital, ophthalmic, intraventricular, intracranial, intracapsular, intraspinal, intracisternal, intraperitoneal, topical, intranasal, aerosol, scarification, and also oral, buccal, rectal or vaginal administration.

Parenteral formulations may be in the form of liquid solutions or suspensions; for oral administration, formulations may be in the form of tablets or capsules; and for intranasal formulations, in the form of powders, 5 nasal drops, or aerosols.

Methods well known in the art for making formulations are to be found in, for example, "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences". Formulations for parenteral administration 10 may, for example, contain as excipients sterile water or saline, polyalkylene glycols such as polyethylene glycol, oils of vegetable origin, or hydrogenated naphthalenes. Biocompatible, biodegradable lactide polymer, lactide/glycolide copolymer, or polyoxyethylene- 15 polyoxypropylene copolymers may be used to control the release of the present factors. Other potentially useful parenteral delivery systems for the factors include ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer particles, osmotic pumps, implantable infusion systems, and liposomes. 20 Formulations for inhalation may contain as excipients, for example, lactose, or may be aqueous solutions containing, for example, polyoxyethylene-9-lauryl ether, glycocholate and deoxycholate, or may be oily solutions for administration in the form of nasal drops, or as a 25 gel to be applied intranasally. Formulations for parenteral administration may also include glycocholate for buccal administration, methoxysalicylate for rectal administration, or citric acid for vaginal administration. 30 The present factors can be used as the sole active agents or can be used in combination with other active ingredients, eg, other growth factors which could facilitate neuronal survival in neurological diseases, or 35 peptidase or protease inhibitors.

The concentration of the present factors in the

formulations of the invention will vary depending upon a number of issues, including the dosage to be administered, and the route of administration.

5 In general terms, the factors of this invention may be provided in an aqueous physiological buffer solution containing about 0.1 to 10% w/v compound for parenteral administration. General dose ranges are from about 1 µg/kg to about 1 g/kg of body weight per day; a preferred 10 dose range is from about 0.01 mg/kg to 100 mg/kg of body weight per day. The preferred dosage to be administered is likely to depend upon the type and extent of progression of the pathophysiological condition being addressed, the overall health of the patient, the make up 15 of the formulation, and the route of administration.

As indicated above, Schwann cells (the glial cells of the peripheral nervous system) are stimulated to divide in the presence of the factors of the invention. Schwann 20 cells of the peripheral nervous system are involved in creating the myelin sheath around individual nerve fibres which is important for proper conduction of electrical impulses to muscles and from sensory receptors.

25 There are a variety of peripheral neuropathies in which Schwann cells and nerve fibres are damaged, either primarily or secondarily. There are many neuropathies of both sensory and motor fibres (Adams and Victor, Principles of Neurology). The most important of those 30 neuropathies are probably the neuropathies associates with diabetes, Landry-Guillain-Barre syndrome, neuropathies caused by carcinomas, and neuropathies caused by toxic agents (some of which are used to treat carcinomas).

35

The invention, however, envisages treatment or prophylaxis of conditions where nervous system damage has

been brought about by any basic cause, eg infection or injury. Thus, in addition to use of the present factors in the treatment of disorders or diseases of the nervous system where demyelination or loss of Schwann cells is 5 present, such glial growth factors can be valuable in the treatment of disorders of the nervous system that have been caused by damage to the peripheral nerves.

Following damage to peripheral nerves, the regeneration process is led by the growth or the re-establishment of 10 Schwann cells, followed by the advancement of the nerve fibre back to its target. By speeding up the division of Schwann cells one could promote the regenerative process following damage.

15 Furthermore, there are a variety of tumours of glial cells the most common of which is probably neurofibromatosis, which is a patchy small tumour created by overgrowth of glial cells. Also, it has been found that an activity very much like GGF can be found in some 20 Schwann cell tumours, and therefore an inhibitors of the action of the present factors on their receptors provides a therapy for glial tumours. The invention thus specifically includes a method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a glial tumour, which comprises 25 administering an effective amount of a substance which inhibits the binding of a factor as defined above to a receptor therefor.

30 In general, the invention includes the use of present polypeptide factors in the prophylaxis or treatment of any pathophysiological condition of the nervous system in which a factor-sensitive or factor-responsive cell type is involved.

35 The polypeptide factors of the invention can also be used as immunogens for making antibodies, such as monoclonal antibodies, following standard techniques. Such

antibodies are included within the present invention. These antibodies can, in turn, be used for diagnostic purposes. Thus, conditions perhaps associated with abnormal levels of the factor may be tracked by using 5 such antibodies. In vitro techniques can be used, employing assays on isolated samples using standard methods. Imaging methods can also be employed in which the antibodies are, for example, tagged with radioactive isotopes which can be imaged outside the body using 10 techniques employed in the art of, for example, tumour imaging.

15 The invention also includes the general use of the present factors as glial cell mitogens in vivo or in vitro, and the factors for such use. One specific embodiment is thus a method for producing a glial cell mitogenic effect in a vertebrate by administering an effective amount of a factor of the invention. A 20 preferred embodiment is such a method in the treatment or prophylaxis of a nervous system disease or disorder.

25 A further general aspect of the invention is the use of a factor of the invention in the manufacture of a medicament, preferably for the treatment of a nervous disease or disorder or for neural regeneration or repair.

30 Also included in the invention are the use of the factors of the invention in competitive assays to identify or quantify molecules having receptor binding characteristics corresponding to those of said polypeptides. The polypeptides may be labelled, optionally with a radioisotope. A competitive assay can identify both antagonists and agonists of the relevant receptor.

35 In another aspect, the invention provides the use of each one of the factors of the invention in an affinity

isolation process, optionally affinity chromatography, for the separation of a respective corresponding receptor. Such processes for the isolation of receptors corresponding to particular proteins are known in the art, and a number of techniques are available and can be applied to the factors of the present invention. For example, in relation to IL-6 and IFN-gamma the reader is referred to Novick, D. et al., J. Chromatogr.; 1990, June 27; 510, 331-7, in relation to gonadotropin releasing hormone reference is made to Hazum, E., J. Chromatogr.; 1990, June 27; 510, 233-8, in relation to G-CSF reference is made to Fukunaga, R., et al., J. Biol. Chem.; 1990, Aug. 15; 265(23), 14008-15, in relation to vasoactive intestinal peptide reference is made to Couvineau, A., et al., J. Biol. Chem.; 1990, Aug. 5; 265(22), 13386-90, in relation to IL-2 reference is made to Smart, J.E., et al., J. Invest. Dermatol.; 1990, June; 94(6 Suppl.), 158S-163S, and in relation to human IFN-gamma reference is made to Stefanos, S., et al., J. Interferon Res.; 1989, Dec., 9(6), 719-30.

The following Examples are not intended to limit the invention, but usefully illustrate the same, and provide specific guidance for effective preparative techniques.

As will be seen from Example 3 hereinafter, the present factors exhibit mitogenic activity on a range of cell types. The activity in relation to fibroblasts indicates a wound repair ability, and the invention encompasses this use. The general statements of invention above in relation to formulations and/or medicaments and their manufacture should clearly be construed to include appropriate products and uses. This is clearly a reasonable expectation for the present invention having regard to, inter alia, reports of similar activities for FGFs. Reference can be made, for example, to Sporn et al., "Peptide Growth Factors and their Receptors I", page

396 (Baird and Bohlen) in the section headed "FGFs in Wound Healing and Tissue Repair".

In the accompanying drawings:-

5

Figures 1 to 8 relate to Example 1 hereinafter, and are briefly described below:

10 Figure 1 is the profile for product from carboxymethyl cellulose chromatography;

Figure 2 is the profile for product from hydroxylapatite HPLC;

15 Figure 3 is the profile for product from Mono S FPLC;

Figure 4 is the profile for product from Gel filtration FPLC;

20 Figures 5 and 6 are the profiles for the two partially purified polypeptide products from reversed-phase HPLC; and

25 Figures 7 and 8 are dose response curves for the GGF-I and GGF-II fractions from reversed-phase HPLC using either a foetal calf serum or a foetal calf plasma background;

30 Figures 9 to 12 show peptides derived from GGF-I and GGF-II (see Example 2 hereinafter), Figures 10 and 12 specifically showing novel sequences:

35 In Figure 10, Panel A, the sequences are shown of GGF-I peptides used to design degenerate oligonucleotide probes and degenerate PCR primers. Some of those sequences in Panel A were also used to design synthetic peptides. Panel B shows the novel peptides that were too short

(less than 6 amino acids) for the design of degenerate probes or degenerate PCR primers;

5 In Figure 12, Panel A, the sequences are shown of GGF-II peptides used to design degenerate oligonucleotide probes and degenerate PCR primers. Some of these sequences in Panel A were also used to design synthetic peptides. Panel B shows the novel peptides that were too short (less than 6 amino acids) for the design of degenerate 10 probes or degenerate PCR primers;

15 Figures 13 to 20 relate to Example 3 hereinafter, and show various aspects of the mitogenic activity of factors of the invention;

Figures 21 to 28 (a, b and c) relate to Example 4 hereinafter, and are briefly described below:

20 Figure 21 lists the degenerate oligonucleotide probes that were designed from the novel peptide sequences listed in Figure 10, Panel A and Figure 12, Panel A;

25 Figure 22 shows a stretch of the putative bovine GGF-II gene sequence from the recombinant bovine genomic phage GGF2BG1, which contains the binding site of degenerate oligonucleotide probes 609 and 650 (see Figure 21). Shown are the coding strand of the DNA sequence and the deduced amino acid sequence in the third reading frame. The sequence of peptide 12 from factor 2 (bold) is part 30 of a 66 amino acid open reading frame (nucleotides 75-272);

35 Figure 23 lists the degenerate PCR primers (Panel A) and unique PCR primers (Panel B) used in experiments to isolate segments of the bovine GGF-II coding sequences present in RNA from posterior pituitary;

Figure 24 summarizes the nine distinct contiguous bovine GGF-II cDNA structures and sequences that were obtained in PCR amplification experiments using the list of primers in Figure 7, Panels A and B, on RNA from posterior pituitary. The top line of the Figure shows a schematic of the exon sequences which contribute to the cDNA structures that were characterized;

Figure 25 is a physical map of bovine recombinant phage of GGF2BG1. The bovine fragment is roughly 20 kb in length and contains two exons (bold) of the bovine GGF-II gene. Restriction sites for the enzymes XbaI, Spe I, NdeI, EcoRI, KpnI, and SstI have been placed on this physical map. Shaded portions correspond to fragments which were subcloned for sequencing;

Figure 26 shows schematically the structure of three alternative gene products of the putative bovine GGF-II gene. Exons are listed A through E in the order of their discovery. The alternative splicing patterns 1, 2 and 3 generate three overlapping deduced protein structures (GGF2BPP1, 2, and 3), which are displayed in the various Figures 28;

Figure 27 compares the GGF-I and GGF-II sequences identified in the deduced protein sequences shown in Figures 28a, 28b and 28c with the novel peptide sequences listed in Figures 10 and 12. The Figure shows that six of the nine novel GGF-II peptide sequences are accounted for in these deduced protein sequences. Two peptide sequences similar to GGF-I sequences are also found;

Figure 28a shows the coding strand DNA sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the cDNA obtained from splicing pattern number 1 shown in Figure 26. This partial cDNA of the putative bovine GGF-II gene encodes a protein of 207 amino acids in length. Peptides shown in

bold were those identified from the lists presented in Figures 10 and 12. Potential glycosylation sites are underlined (along with polyadenylation signal AATAAA);

5 **Figure 28b** shows the coding strand DNA sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the cDNA obtained from splicing pattern number 2 shown in Figure 26. This partial cDNA of the putative bovine GGF-II gene encodes a protein of 264 amino acids in length. Peptides shown in
10 **bold** were those identified from the lists presented in Figures 10 and 12. Potential glycosylation sites are underlined (along with polyadenylation signal AATAAA);

15 **Figure 28c** shows the coding strand DNA sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the cDNA obtained from splicing pattern number 3 shown in Figure 26. This partial cDNA of the putative bovine GGF-II gene encodes a protein of 258 amino acids in length. Peptides shown in
20 **bold** were those identified from the lists presented in Figures 10 and 12. Potential glycosylation sites are underlined (along with polyadenylation signal AATAAA); and

25 The DNA sequences shown in Figures 28a, 28b and 28c are themselves further aspects of this invention; and the invention further includes polypeptides encoded by said sequences;

30 **Figure 29** relates to Example 6 hereinafter, and shows an autoradiogram of a cross hybridization analysis of putative bovine GGF-II gene sequences to a variety of mammalian DNAs on a southern blot. The filter contains lanes of Eco RI-digested DNA (5 micrograms per lane) from the species listed in the Figure. The probe detects a
35 single strong band in each DNA sample, including a four kb fragment in the bovine DNA as anticipated by the physical map in Figure 25. Bands of relatively minor

intensity are observed as well, which could represent related DNA sequences. The strong hybridizing band from each of the other mammalian DNA samples presumably represents the GGF-II homologue of those species.

5

In Example 1 hereinafter, unless otherwise indicated, all operations were conducted at 4°C, and, with reference to Figures 1 to 6, activity at each stage was determined using the Brockes (Meth. Enz., supra) techniques with the following modifications. Thus, in preparing Schwann cells, 5µM forskolin was added in addition to DMEM (Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium), FCS and GGF. Cells used in the assay were fibroblast-free Schwann cells at passage number less than 10, and these cells were removed from flasks with trypsin and plated into flat-bottomed 96-well plates at 3.3 thousand cells per microwell. [125I]IUDR was added for the final 24 hours after the test solution addition. The background (unstimulated) incorporation to each assay was less than 100 cpm, and maximal incorporation was 20 to 200 fold over background depending on Schwann cell batch and passage number.

In the case of the GGF-I and GGF-II fractions from reversed-phase HPLC as described below in Example 1, two dose response curves were also produced for each factor, using exactly the above method for one of the curves for each factor, and the above method modified in the assay procedure only by substituting foetal calf plasma for foetal calf serum to obtain the other curve for each factor. The results are in Figures 7 and 8.

EXAMPLE 1

(A) Preparation of Factor-CM Fraction

35

4,000 frozen whole bovine pituitaries (c.a. 12 kg) were thawed overnight, washed briefly with water and then

homogenised in an equal volume of 0.15 M ammonium sulphate in batches in a Waring Blender. The homogenate was taken to pH 4.5 with 1.0 M HCl and centrifuged at 4,900 g for 80 minutes. Any fatty material in the supernatant was removed by passing it through glass wool. After taking the pH of the supernatant to 6.5 using 1.0 M NaOH, solid ammonium sulphate was added to give a 36% saturated solution. After several hours stirring, the suspension was centrifuged at 4,900 g for 80 minutes and the precipitate discarded. After filtration through glass wool, further solid ammonium sulphate was added to the supernatant to give a 75% saturated solution which was once again centrifuged at 4,900 g for 80 minutes after several hours stirring. The pellet was resuspended in c.a. 2 L of 0.1 M sodium phosphate pH 6.0 and dialysed 3 x 40 L of the same buffer. After confirming that the conductivity of the dialysate was below 20.0 mSiemens, it was loaded on to a Bioprocess column (120 x 113 mm, Pharmacia) packed with carboxymethyl cellulose (CM-52, Whatman) at a flow rate of 2 ml.min⁻¹. The column was washed with 2 volumes of 0.1 M sodium phosphate pH 6.0, followed by 2 volumes of 50 mM NaCl, and finally 2 volumes of 0.2 M NaCl both in the same buffer. During the final step, 10 mL (5 minute) fractions were collected. Fractions 73 to 118 inclusive were pooled, dialysed against the 10 volumes of 10 mM sodium phosphate pH 6.0 twice and clarified by centrifugation at 100,000 g for 60 minutes.

30 (B) Hydroxylapatite HPLC

Hydroxylapatite HPLC is not a technique hitherto used in isolating glial growth factors, but proved particularly efficacious in this invention.

35 The material obtained from the above CM-cellulose chromatography was filtered through a 0.22 um filter

(Nalgene), loaded at room temperature on to a high performance hydroxylapatite column (50 x 50 mm, Biorad) equipped with a guard column (15 x 25 mm, Biorad) and equilibrated with 10 mM potassium phosphate pH 6.0.

5 Elution at room temperature was carried out at a flow rate of 2 mL.minute⁻¹ using the following programmed linear gradient:

	time (min)	%B	Solvent A : 10 mM potassium phosphate pH 6.0	Solvent B : 1.0 M potassium phosphate pH 6.0
10	0.0	0	Solvent A : 10 mM potassium phosphate pH 6.0	Solvent B : 1.0 M potassium phosphate pH 6.0
	5.0	0		
	7.0	20		
	70.0	20		
	150.0	100		
15	180.0	100		
	185.0	0		

6.0 mL (3 minutes) fractions were collected during the gradient elution. Fractions 39-45 were pooled and 20 dialysed against 10 volumes of 50 mM sodium phosphate pH 6.0.

(C) Mono S FPLC

25 Mono S FPLC enabled a more concentrated material to be prepared for subsequent gel filtration.

Any particulate material in the pooled material from the hydroxylapatite column was removed by a clarifying spin 30 at 100,000 g for 60 minutes prior to loading on to a preparative HR10/10 Mono S cation exchange column (100 x 10 mm, Pharmacia) which was then re-equilibrated to 50 mM sodium phosphate pH 6.0 at room temperature with a flow rate of 1.0 mL.minute⁻¹. Under these conditions, bound 35 protein was eluted using the following programmed linear gradient:

time (min)	%B	Solvent A : 50 mM potassium phosphate pH 6.0 Solvent B : 1.2 M sodium chloride, 50 mM sodium phosphate pH 6.0
0.0	0	
70.0	30	
240.0	100	
5	250.0	100
	260.0	0

1 mL (1 minute) fractions were collected throughout this gradient programme. Fractions 99 to 115 inclusive were
10 pooled.

(D) Gel Filtration FPLC

This step commenced the separation of the two factors of
15 the invention prior to final purification, producing enriched fractions.

For the purposes of this step, a preparative Superose 12
20 FPLC column (510 x 20 mm, Pharmacia) was packed according to the manufacturers' instructions. In order to standardize this column, a theoretical plates measurement was made according to the manufacturers' instructions, giving a value of 9,700 theoretical plates.

25 The pool of Mono S eluted material was applied at room temperature in 2.5 mL aliquots to this column in 50 mM sodium phosphate, 0.75 NaCl pH 6.0 (previously passed through a C18 reversed phase column (Sep-pak, Millipore)) at a flow rate of 1.0 mL.minute⁻¹. 1 mL (0.5 minute)
30 fractions were collected from 35 minutes after each sample was applied to the column. Fractions 27 to 41 (GGF-II) and 42 to 57 (GGF-I) inclusive from each run were pooled.

35 (E) Reversed-Phase HPLC

The GGF-I and GGF-II pools from the above Superose 12

runs were each divided into three equal aliquots. Each aliquot was loaded on to a C8 reversed-phase column (Aquapore RP-300 7 μ C8 220 x 4.6 mm, Applied Biosystems) protected by a guard cartridge (RP-8, 15 x 3.2 mm, Applied Biosystems) and equilibrated to 40°C at 0.5 mL.minute⁻¹. Protein was eluted under these conditions using the following programmed linear gradient:

	time (min)	%B	Solvent A : 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA)
10	0	0	Solvent B : 90% acetonitrile, 0.1% TFA
	60	66.6	
	62.0	100	
	72.0	100	
	75.0	0	

15 200 μ L (0.4 minute) fractions were collected in siliconised tubes (Multilube tubes, Bioquote) from 15.2 minutes after the beginning of the programmed gradient.

20 (F) SDS-Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis

In this step, protein molecular weight standards, low range, catalogue no. 161-0304, from Bio-Rad Laboratories Limited, Watford, England were employed. The actual 25 proteins used, and their molecular weight standards, have been listed hereinbefore.

Fractions 47 to 53 (GGF-I) and fractions 61 to 67 (GGF-II) inclusive from the reversed-phase runs were 30 individually pooled. 7 μ L of the pooled material was boiled in an equal volume of 0.0125 M Tris-Cl, 4% SDS, 20% glycerol, and 10% β -mercaptoethanol for GGF-I, for 5 minutes and loaded on to an 11% polyacrylamide Leammlie gel with a 4% stacking gel and run at a constant voltage 35 of 50 V for 16 hours. This gel was then fixed and stained using a silver staining kit (Amersham). Under these conditions, the factors are each seen as a somewhat

5 diffuse band at relative molecular weights 30,000 to 36,000 Daltons (GGF-I) and 55,000 to 63,000 Daltons (GGF-II) as defined by molecular weight markers. From the gel staining, it is apparent that there are a small number of other protein species present at equivalent levels to the GGF-I and GGF-II species in the material pooled from the reversed-phase runs.

10 Stability in Trifluoroacetic Acid

15 Stability data were obtained for the present Factors in the presence of trifluoroacetic acid, as follows:-

15 GGF-I

20 Material from the reversed-phase HPLC, in the presence of 0.1% TFA and acetonitrile, was assayed within 12 hours of the completion of the column run and then after 10 weeks

incubation at 4°C. Following incubation, the GGF-I had at least 50% of the activity of that material assayed

25 directly off the column.

GGF-II

30 Material from the reversed-phase HPLC, in the presence of 0.1% TFA and acetonitrile, and stored at -20°C, was assayed after thawing and then after 4 days incubation at 4°C. Following incubation, the GGF-II had at least 50% of the activity of that material freshly thawed.

35 It will be appreciated that the trifluoroacetic acid concentration used in the above studies is that most commonly used for reversed-phase chromatography.

EXAMPLE 2

Amino acid sequence analysis studies were performed using

highly purified bovine pituitary GGF-I and GGF-II. The conventional single letter code was used to describe the sequences. Peptides were obtained by lysyl endopeptidase and protease V8 digests, carried out on reduced and 5 carboxymethylated samples, with the lysyl endopeptidase digest of GGF-II carried out on material eluted from the 55-65 kD region of a 11% SDS-PAGE (MW relative to the above-quoted markers).

10 A total of 21 peptide sequences (see Figure 9) were obtained for GGF-I, of which 12 peptides (see Figure 10) are not present in current protein databases and therefore represent unique sequences. A total of 12 peptide sequences (see Figure 11) were obtained for GGF- 15 II, of which 10 peptides (see Figure 12) are not present in current protein databases and therefore represent unique sequences (an exception is peptide GGF-II 06 which shows identical sequences in many proteins which are probably of no significance given the small number of 20 residues). These novel sequences are extremely likely to correspond to portions of the true amino acid sequences of GGFs I and II.

25 Particular attention can be drawn to the sequences of GGF-I 07 and GGF-II 12, which are clearly highly related. The similarities indicate that the sequences of these peptides are almost certainly those of the assigned GGF species, and are most unlikely to be derived from 30 contaminant proteins.

35 In addition, in peptide GGF-II 02, the sequence X S S is consistent with the presence of an N linked carbohydrate moiety on an asparagine at the position denoted by X.

35 In general, in Figures 9 and 11, X represents an unknown residue denoting a sequencing cycle where a single position could not be called with certainty either

because there was more than one signal of equal size in the cycle or because no signal was present. As asterisk denotes those peptides where the last amino acid called corresponds to the last amino acid present in that peptide. In the remaining peptides, the signal strength after the last amino acid called was insufficient to continue sequence calling to the end of that peptide. The right hand column indicates the results of a computer database search using the GCG package FASTA and TFASTA programs to analyse the NBRF and EMBL sequence databases. The name of a protein in this column denotes identity of a portion of its sequence with the peptide amino acid sequence called allowing a maximum of two mismatches. A question mark denotes three mismatches allowed. The abbreviations used are as follows:

HMG-1	High Mobility Group protein-1
HMG-2	High Mobility Group protein-2
LH-alpha	Luteinizing hormone alpha subunit
LH-beta	Luteinizing hormone beta subunit

20

EXAMPLE 3

The mitogenic activity of a highly purified sample containing both GGFs I and II was studied using a quantitative method, which allows a single microculture to be examined for DNA synthesis, cell morphology, cell number and expression of cell antigens. This technique has been modified from a method previously reported by Muir D et al., Analytical Biochemistry 185, 377-382, 1990. The main modifications are: 1) the use of uncoated microtiter plates, 2) the cell number per well, 3) the use of 5% Foetal Bovine Plasma (FBP) instead of 10% Foetal Calf Serum (FCS), and 4) the time of incubation in presence of mitogens and bromodeoxyuridine (BrdU), added simultaneously to the cultures. In addition the cell monolayer was not washed before fixation to avoid loss of cells, and the incubation time

of monoclonal mouse anti-BrdU antibody and peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-mouse immunoglobulin (IgG) antibody were doubled to increase the sensitivity of the assay. The assay, optimized for rat sciatic nerve Schwann cells, 5 has also been used for several cell lines, after appropriate modifications to the cell culture conditions.

Methods

10 On day 1, purified Schwann cells were plated onto uncoated 96 well plates in 5% FBP/Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) (5,000 cells/well). On day 2, GGFs or other test factors were added to the cultures, as well as BrdU at a final concentration of 10 μ M. After 48 hours 15 (day 4) BrdU incorporation was terminated by aspirating the medium and cells were fixed with 200 μ l/well of 70% ethanol for 20 min at room temperature. Next, the cells were washed with water and the DNA denatured by incubation with 100 μ l 2N HCl for 10 min at 37°C. 20 Following aspiration, residual acid was neutralized by filling the wells with 0.1M borate buffer, pH 9.0, and the cells were washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Cells were then treated with 50 μ l of blocking buffer (PBS containing 0.1% Triton X 100 and 2% normal 25 goat serum) for 15 min at 37°C. After aspiration, monoclonal mouse anti-BrdU antibody (Dako Corp., Santa Barbara, CA) (50 μ l/well, 1.4 μ g/ml diluted in blocking buffer) was added and incubated for two hours at 37°C. Unbound antibodies were removed by three washes in PBS 30 containing 0.1% Triton X-100 and peroxidase-conjugated goat ant-mouse IgG antibody (Dako Corp., Santa Barbara, CA) (50 μ l/well, 2 μ g/ml diluted in blocking buffer) was added and incubated for one hour at 37°C. After three washes in PBS/Triton and a final rinse in PBS, wells 35 received 100 μ l/well of 50 μ M phosphate/citrate buffer, pH 5.0, containing 0.05% of the soluble chromogen o-phenylenediamine (OPD) and 0.02% H₂O₂. The reaction was

terminated after 5-20 min at room temperature, by pipetting 80 μ l from each well to a clean plate containing 40 μ l/well of 2N sulfuric acid. The absorbance was recorded at 490nm using a plate reader (Dynatech Labs.). The assay plates containing the cell monolayers were washed twice with PBS and immunocytochemically stained for BrdU-DNA by adding 100 μ l/well of the substrate diaminobenzidine (DAB) and 0.02% H_2O_2 to generate an insoluble product. After 10-20 min the staining reaction was stopped by washing with water, and BrdU-positive nuclei observed and counted using an inverted microscope. Occasionally, negative nuclei were counterstained with 0.001% Toluidine blue and counted as before.

15

Cell LinesSwiss 3T3 Fibroblasts

Cells, from Flow Labs, were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% FCS, penicillin and streptomycin, at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 10% CO₂ in air. Cells were fed or subcultured every two days. For mitogenic assay, cells were plated at a density of 5,000 cells/well in complete medium and incubated for a week until cells were confluent and quiescent. The serum containing medium was removed and the cell monolayer washed twice with serum free-medium. 100 μ l of serum free medium containing mitogens and 10 μ M BrdU were added to each well and incubated for 48 hours. Dose responses to GGFs and serum or PDGF (as a positive control) were performed.

BHK (Baby Hamster Kidney) 21 C13 Fibroblasts

Cells from European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC), were maintained in Glasgow Modified Eagle Medium (GMEM) supplemented with 5% tryptose phosphate broth, 5% FCS, penicillin and streptomycin, at 37°C in a humidified

atmosphere of 5% CO₂ in air. Cells were fed or subcultured every two to three days. For mitogenic assay, cells were plated at a density of 2,000 cell/well in complete medium for 24 hours. The serum containing medium was then removed and after washing with serum free medium, replaced with 100 μ l of 0.1% FCS containing GMEM or GMEM alone. GGFs and FCS or bFGF as positive controls were added, coincident with 10 μ M BrdU, and incubated for 48 hours. Cell cultures were then processed as described for Schwann cells.

C6 Rat Glioma Cell Line

Cells, obtained at passage 39, were maintained in DMEM containing 5% FCS, 5% Horse serum (HS), penicillin and streptomycin, at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 10% CO₂ in air. Cells were fed or subcultured every three days. For mitogenic assay, cells were plated at a density of 2,000 cells/well in complete medium and incubated for 24 hours. Then medium was replaced with a mixture of 1:1 DMEM and F12 medium containing 0.1% FCS, after washing in serum free medium. Dose responses to GGFs, FCS and aFGF were then performed and cells were processed through the ELISA as previously described for the other cell types.

25

PC12 (Rat Adrenal Pheochromocytoma Cells)

Cells from ECACC, were maintained in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% HS, 5% FCS, penicillin and streptomycin, in collagen coated flasks, at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ in air. Cells were fed every three days by replacing 80% of the medium. For mitogenic assay, cells were plated at a density of 3,000 cells/well in complete medium, on collagen coated plates (50 μ l/well collagen, Vitrogen Collagen Corp., diluted 1 : 50, 30 min at 37°C) and incubated for 24 hours. The medium was then placed with fresh RPMI-either alone or containing 1 μ M insulin or 1% FCS. Dose responses to

FCS/HS (1 : 2) as positive control and to GGFs were performed as before. After 48 hours cells were fixed and the ELISA performed as previously described.

5 Results

All the experiments presented in this Example were performed using a highly purified sample from a Superose 12 chromatography purification step (see Example 1, section D) containing a mixture of GGF-I and GGF-II (GGFs).

Firstly, the results obtained with the BrdU incorporation assay were compared with the classical mitogenic assay for Schwann cells based on [¹²⁵I]-UdR incorporation into 15 DNA of dividing cells, described by J.P.Brockes (Methods Enzymol. 147:217, 1987).

Figure 13 shows the comparison of data obtained with the two assays, performed in the same cell culture conditions 20 (5,000 cells/well, in 5% FBP/DMEM, incubated in presence of GGFs for 48hrs). As clearly shown, the results are comparable, but BrdU incorporation assay appears to be slightly more sensitive, as suggested by the shift of the curve to the left of the graph, i.e. to lower 25 concentrations of GGFs.

As described under the section "Methods", after the immunoreactive BrdU-DNA has been quantitated by reading the intensity of the soluble product of the OPD 30 peroxidase reaction, the original assay plates containing cell monolayers can undergo the second reaction resulting in the insoluble DAB product, which stains the BrdU-positive nuclei. The microcultures can then be examined under an inverted microscope, and cell morphology and the 35 numbers of BrdU-positive and negative nuclei can be observed.

In Figure 14a and Figure 14b the BrdU-DNA immunoreactivity, evaluated by reading absorbance at 490 nm, is compared to the number of BrdU-positive nuclei and to the percentage of BrdU-positive nuclei on the total number of cells per well, counted in the same cultures. Standard deviations were less than 10%. The two evaluation methods show a very good correlation and the discrepancy between the values at the highest dose of GGFs can be explained by the different extent of DNA synthesis in cells detected as BrdU-positive.

The BrdU incorporation assay can therefore provide additional useful information about the biological activity of GGFs on Schwann cells when compared to the [125]I-UdR incorporation assay. For example, the data reported in Figure 15 show that GGFs can act on Schwann cells to induce DNA synthesis, but at lower doses to increase the number of negative cells present in the microculture after 48 hours.

The assay has then been used on several cell lines of different origin. In Figure 16 the mitogenic responses of Schwann cells and Swiss 3T3 fibroblasts to GGFs are compared; despite the weak response obtained in 3T3 fibroblasts, some clearly BrdU-positive nuclei were detected in these cultures. Control cultures were run in parallel in presence of several doses of FCS or human recombinant PDGF, showing that the cells could respond to appropriate stimuli (not shown).

The ability of fibroblasts to respond to GGFs was further investigated using the BHK 21 C13 cell line. These fibroblasts, derived from kidney, do not exhibit contact inhibition or reach a quiescent state when confluent. Therefore the experimental conditions were designed to have a very low background proliferation without comprising the cell viability. GGFs have a significant

mitogenic activity on BHK21 C13 cells as shown by Figure 17 and Figure 18.

Figure 17 shows the BrdU incorporation into DNA by BHK 21 C13 cells stimulated by GGFs in the presence of 0.1% FCS. The good mitogenic response to FCS indicates that cell culture conditions were not limiting. In Figure 18 the mitogenic effect of GGFs is expressed as the number of BrdU-positive and BrdU-negative cells and as the total number of cells counted per well. Data are representative of two experiments run in duplicates; at least three fields per well were counted. As observed for Schwann cells in addition to a proliferative effect at low doses, GGFs also increase the numbers of non-responding cells surviving. The percentage of BrdU-positive cells is proportional to the increasing amounts of GGFs added to the cultures. The total number of cells after 48 hours in presence of higher doses of GGFs is at least doubled, confirming that GGFs induce DNA synthesis and proliferation in BHK21 C13 cells. Under the same conditions, cells maintained for 48 hours in the presence of 2% FCS showed an increase of about six fold (not shown).

C6 glioma cells have provided a useful model to study glial cell properties. The phenotype expressed seems to be dependent on the cell passage, the cells more closely resembling an astrocyte phenotype at an early stage, and an oligodendrocyte phenotype at later stages (beyond passage 70). C6 cells used in these experiments were from passage 39 to passage 52. C6 cells are a highly proliferating population, therefore the experimental conditions were optimized to have a very low background of BrdU incorporation. The presence of 0.1% serum was necessary to maintain cell viability without significantly affecting the mitogenic responses, as shown by the dose response to FCS (Figure 19).

5 In Figure 20 the mitogenic responses to aFGF (Fibroblast growth factor) and GGFs are expressed as the percentages of maximal BrdU incorporation obtained in the presence of
10 FCS (8%). Values are averages of two experiments, run in duplicates. The effect of GGFs was comparable to that of a pure preparation of aFGF. aFGF has been described as a specific growth factor for C6 cells (Lim R. et al., Cell Regulation 1:741-746, 1990) and for that reason it was used as a positive control. The direct counting of BrdU-positive and negative cells was not possible because of
15 the high cell density in the microcultures.

15 In contrast to the cell lines so far reported, PC12 cells did not show any evident responsiveness to GGFs, when treated under culture conditions in which PC12 could respond to sera (mixture of FCS and HS as used routinely for cell maintenance). Nevertheless the number of cells plated per well seems to affect the behaviour of PC12
20 cells, and therefore further experiments are required.

EXAMPLE 4

25 Isolation and cloning of the GGF-II nucleotide sequence, using peptide sequence information and library screening, was performed as set out below. It will be appreciated that the peptides of Figures 9 and 10 can be used as the starting point for isolation and cloning of GGF-I sequences by following the techniques described herein.
30 Indeed, Figure 21 shows possible degenerate oligonucleotide probes for this purpose, and Figure 23 lists possible PCR primers. DNA sequence and polypeptide sequence should be obtainable by this means as with GGF-II, and also DNA constructs and expression vectors
35 incorporating such DNA sequence, host cells genetically altered by incorporating such constructs/vectors, and protein obtainable by cultivating such host cells. The

invention envisages such subject matter.

1. Design and Synthesis of Oligonucleotide Probes and Primers

5

Degenerate DNA oligomer probes were designed by backtranslating the amino acid sequences (derived from the peptides generated from purified GGF protein) into nucleotide sequences. Oligomers represented either the 10 coding strand or the non-coding strand of the DNA sequence. When serine, arginine or leucine were included in the oligomer design, then two separate syntheses were prepared to avoid ambiguities. For example, serine was encoded by either TCN or AGY as in 537 and 538 or 609 and 15 610. Similar codon splitting was done for arginine or leucine (e.g. 544, 545). DNA oligomers were synthesized on a Biosearch 8750 4-column DNA synthesizer using β -cyanoethyl chemistry operated at 0.2 micromole scale synthesis. Oligomers were cleaved off the column (500 20 angstrom CpG resins) and deprotected in concentrated ammonium hydroxide for 6-24 hours at 55-60°C. Deprotected oligomers were dried under vacuum (Speedvac) and purified by electrophoresis in gels of 15% acrylamide (20 mono : 1 bis), 50 mM Tris-borate-EDTA buffer 25 containing 7M urea. Full length oligomers were detected in the gels by UV shadowing, then the bands were excised and DNA oligomers eluted into 1.5 mls H₂O for 4-16 hours with shaking. The eluate was dried, redissolved in 0.1 ml H₂O and absorbance measurements were taken at 260nm. 30 Concentrations were determined according to the following formula:

$$(A_{260} \times \text{units/ml}) (60.6/\text{length} = x \mu\text{M})$$

All oligomers were adjusted to 50 μM concentration by 35 addition of H₂O.

Degenerate probes designed as above are shown in Figure

21.

PCR primers were prepared by essentially the same procedures that were used for probes with the following modifications. Linkers of thirteen nucleotides contained restriction sites were included at the 5' ends of the degenerate oligomers for use in cloning into vectors. DNA synthesis was performed at 1 micromole scale using 1,000 angstrom CpG resins and inosine was used at positions where all four nucleotides were incorporated normally into degenerate probes. Purifications of PCR primers included an ethanol precipitation following the gel electrophoresis purification.

15 2. Library Construction and Screening

A bovine genomic DNA library was purchased from Stratagene (Catalogue Number: 945701). The library contained 2×10^6 15-20kb Sau3A1 partial bovine DNA fragments cloned into the vector lambda DashII. A bovine total brain cDNA library was purchased from Clonetech (Catalogue Number: BL 10139). Complementary DNA libraries were constructed (In Vitrogen; Stratagene) from mRNA prepared from bovine total brain, from bovine pituitary and from bovine posterior pituitary. In Vitrogen prepared two cDNA libraries: one library was in the vector lambda gt10, the other in vector pCDNAI (a plasmid library). The Stratagene libraries were prepared in the vector lambda unizap. Collectively, the cDNA libraries contained 14 million primary recombinant phage.

30 The bovine genomic library was plated on E. coli K12 host strain LE392 on 23 x 23 cm plates (Nunc) at 150,000 to 200,000 phage plaques per plate. Each plate represented approximately one bovine genome equivalent. Following an overnight incubation at 37°C, the plates were chilled and replicate filters were prepared according to procedures

of Grunstein and Hogness [PNAS (USA (1975) 72:3961)]. Four plaque lifts were prepared from each plate onto uncharged nylon membranes (Pall Biodyne A or MSI Nitropure). The DNA was immobilized onto the membranes by cross-linking under UV light for 5 minutes or, by baking at 80° under vacuum for two hours.

DNA probes were labelled using T4 polynucleotide kinase (New England Biolabs) with gamma 32P ATP (New England Nuclear; 6500 Ci/mmol) according to the specifications of the suppliers. Briefly, 50 pmols of degenerate DNA oligomer were incubated in the presence of 600 μ Ci γ -32P-ATP and 5 units T4 polynucleotide kinase for 30 minutes at 37°C. Reactions were terminated, gel electrophoresis loading buffer was added and then radiolabelled probes were purified by electrophoresis. 32P labelled probes were excised from gel slices and eluted into water. Alternatively, DNA probes were labelled via PCR amplification by incorporation of α -32P-dATP or α -32P dCTP according to the protocol of Schowalter and Sommer, Anal. Biochem 177:90-94 (1989). Probes labelled in PCR reactions were purified by desalting on Sephadex G-150 columns.

Prehybridization and hybridization were performed in GMC buffer (0.52M NaPi, 7% SDS, 1% BSA, 1.5mM EDTA, 0.1M NaCl, 10mg/ml tRNA). Washing was performed in buffer A oligowash (160ml 1M Na₂HPO₄, 200 ml 20% SDS, 8.0 ml 0.5m EDTA, 100 ml 5M NaCl, 3632 ml H₂O). Typically, 20 filters (400 sq. centimetres each) representing replicate copies of ten bovine genome equivalents were incubated in 200 ml hybridization solution with 100 pmols of degenerate oligonucleotide probe (128-512 fold degenerate). Hybridization was allowed to occur overnight at 5°C below the minimum melting temperature calculated for the degenerate probe. The calculation of minimum melting temperature assumes 2°C for an AT pair

and 4°C for a GC pair.

5 Filters were washed in repeated changes of oligowash at the hybridization temperatures four to five hours and finally, in 3.2M tetramethylammonium chloride, 1% SDS twice for 30 min at a temperature dependent on the DNA probe length. For 20mers, the final wash temperature was 60°C. Filters were mounted, then exposed to X-ray film (Kodak XAR5) using intensifying screens (Dupont Cronex 10 Lightening Plus). Usually, a three to five day film exposure at minus 80°C was sufficient to detect duplicate signals in these library screens.

15 Following analysis of the results, filters could be stripped and reprobed. Filters were stripped by incubating through two successive cycles of fifteen minutes in a microwave oven at full power in a solution of 1% SDS containing 10mM EDTA pH8. Filters were taken through at least three to four cycles of stripping and 20 reprobing with various probes.

3. Recombinant Phage Isolation, Growth and DNA Preparation

25 These procedures followed standard protocol as described in Recombinant DNA (Maniatis et al 2:60-2:81).

4. Analysis of Isolated Clones Using DNA Digestion and Southern Blots

30 Recombinant Phage DNA samples (2 micrograms) were digested according to conditions recommended by the restriction endonuclease supplier (New England Biolabs). Following a four hour incubation at 37°C, the reactions 35 products were precipitated in the presence of 0.1M sodium acetate and three volumes of ethanol. Precipitated DNA was collected by centrifugation, rinsed in 75% ethanol

and dried. All resuspended samples were loaded onto agarose gels (typically 1% in TAE buffer; 0.04M Tris acetate, 0.002M EDTA). Gel runs were at 1 volt per centimetre from 4 to 20 hours. Markers included lambda Hind III DNA fragments and/or ϕ X174HaeIII DNA fragments (New England Biolabs). The gels were stained with 0.5 micrograms/ml of ethidium bromide and photographed. For southern blotting, DNA was first depurinated in the gel by treatment with 0.125 N HCl, denatured in 0.5 N NaOH and transferred in 20x SSC (3M sodium chloride, 0.03 M sodium citrate) to uncharged nylon membranes. Blotting was done for 6 hours up to 24 hours, then the filters were neutralized in .1M Tris NaOH pH 7.5, 0.15 M sodium chloride, then rinsed briefly in 50 mM Tris-borate EDTA. For cross-linking, the filters were wrapped first in transparent plastic wrap, then the DNA side exposed for five minutes to an ultraviolet light. Hybridization and washing was performed as described for library screening (see section 2 of this Example). For hybridization analysis to determine whether similar genes exist in other species slight modifications were made. The DNA filter was purchased from Clonetech (Catalogue Number 7753-1) and contains 5 micrograms of EcoRI digested DNA from various species per lane. The probe was labelled by PCR amplification reactions as described in section 2 above, and hybridizations were done in 80% buffer B(2g polyvinylpyrrolidine, 2g Ficoll-400, 2g bovine serum albumin, 50ml 1M Tris-HCl(pH 7.5) 58g NaCl, 1g sodium pyrophosphate, 10g sodium dodecyl sulfate, 950ml H₂O) containing 10% dextran sulfate. The probes were denatured by boiling for ten minutes then rapidly cooling in ice water. The probe was added to the hybridization buffer at 10⁶ dpm 32P per ml and incubated overnight at 60°C. The filters were washed at 60°C first in buffer B followed by 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS then in 1x SSC, 0.1% SDS. For high stringency, experiments, final washes were done in 0.1 X SSC, 1% SDS and the temperature raised to 65°C.

Southern blot data were used to prepare a restriction map of the genomic clone and to indicate which subfragments hybridized to the GGF probes (candidates for subcloning).

5 5. Subcloning of Pieces of DNA Homologous to Hybridization Probes

DNA digests (e.g. 5 micrograms) were loaded onto 1% agarose gels then appropriate fragments excised from the gels following staining. The DNA was purified by adsorption onto glass beads followed by elution using the protocol described by the supplier (Bio 101). Recovered DNA fragments (100-200 ng) were ligated into linearized dephosphorylated vectors, e.g. pT3T7 (Ambion), which is a derivative of pUC18, using T4 ligase (New England Biolabs). This vector carries the E. coli β lactamase gene, hence, transformants can be selected on plates containing ampicillin. The vector also supplies β -galactosidase complementation to the host cell, therefore non-recombinants (blue) can be detected using isopropylthiogalactoside and Bluogal (Bethesda Research Labs). A portion of the ligation reactions was used to transform E. coli K12 XL1 blue competent cells (Stratagene Catalogue Number: 200236) and then the transformants were selected on LB plates containing 50 micrograms per ml ampicillin. White colonies were selected and plasmid mini preps were prepared for DNA digestion and for DNA sequence analysis. Selected clones were retested to determine if their insert DNA hybridized with the GGF probes.

6. DNA Sequencing

Double stranded plasmid DNA templates were prepared from double stranded plasmids isolated from 5ml cultures according to standard protocols. Sequencing was by the dideoxy chain termination method using Sequenase 2.0 and

a dideoxynucleotide sequencing kit (US Biochemical) according to the manufacturers protocol [a modification of Sanger et al. PNAS; USA 74:5463 (1977)]. Alternatively, sequencing was done in a DNA thermal 5 cycler (Perkin Elmer, model 4800) using a cycle sequencing kit (New England Biolabs; Bethesda Research Laboratories) and was performed according to manufacturers instructions using a 5'-end labelled primer. Sequence primers were either those supplied with 10 the sequencing kits or were synthesized according to sequence determined from the clones. Sequencing reactions were loaded on and resolved on 0.4mm thick sequencing gels of 6% polyacrylamide. Gels were dried and exposed to X-Ray film. Typically, ³⁵S was incorporated 15 when standard sequencing kits were used and a ³²P end labelled primer was used for cycle sequencing reactions. Sequences were read into a DNA sequence editor from the bottom of the gel to the top (5' direction to 3') and data were analyzed using programs supplied by Genetics 20 Computer Group (GCG, University of Wisconsin).

7. RNA Preparation and PCR Amplification

Open reading frames detected in the genomic DNA and which 25 contained sequence encoding GGF peptides were extended via PCR amplification of pituitary RNA. RNA was prepared from frozen bovine tissue (Pelfreeze) according to the guanidine neutral-CsCl chloride procedure [Chirgwin et. al. Biochemistry 18:5294 (1979).] Polyadenylated RNA was 30 selected by oligo-dT cellulose column chromatography [Aviv and Leder PNAS (USA) 69:1408 (1972)].

Specific DNA target sequences were amplified beginning 35 with either total RNA or polyadenylated RNA samples that had been converted to cDNA using the Perkin Elmer PCR/RNA Kit Number: N808-0017. First strand reverse transcription reactions used 1 µg template RNA and either

primers of oligo dT with restriction enzyme recognition site linkers attached or specific antisense primers determined from cloned sequences with restriction sites attached. To produce the second strand, the primers 5 either were plus strand unique sequences as used in 3' RACE reactions [Frohman et. al., PNAS (USA) 85:8998 (1988)] or were oligo dT primers with restriction sites attached if the second target site had been added by terminal transferase tailing first strand reaction 10 products with dATP (e.g. 5' race reactions, Frohman et. al., ibid). Alternatively, as in anchored PCR reactions the second strand primers were degenerate, hence, representing particular peptide sequences.

15 The amplification profiles followed the following general scheme: 1) five minutes soak file at 95°C; 2) thermal cycle file of 1 minute, 95°C; 1 minute ramped down to an annealing temperature of 45°C, 50°C or 55°C; maintain the annealing temperature for one minute; ramp up to 72°C 20 over one minute; extend at 72°C for one minute or for one minute plus a 10 second auto extension; 3) extension cycle at 72°C, five minutes, and; 4) soak file 4°C for infinite time. Thermal cycle files (#2) usually were run for 30 cycles. Sixteen μ l of each 100 μ l amplification 25 reaction was analyzed by electrophoresis in 2% Nusiev 1% agarose gels run in TAE buffer at 4 volts per centimetre for three hours. The gels were stained, then blotted to uncharged nylon membranes which were probed with labelled DNA probes that were internal to the primers.

30 Specific sets of DNA amplification products could be identified in the blotting experiments and their positions used as a guide to purification and reamplification. When appropriate, the remaining 35 portions of selected samples were loaded on to preparative gels, then following electrophoresis four to five slices of 0.5 mm thickness (bracketing the expected

position of the specific product) were taken from the gel. The agarose was crushed, then soaked in 0.5 ml of electrophoresis buffer from 2-16 hours at 40°C. The crushed agarose was centrifuged for two minutes and the aqueous phase was transferred to fresh tubes.

5 Reamplification was done on five microlitres (roughly 1% of the product) of the eluted material using the same sets of primers and the reaction profiles as in the original reactions. When the reamplification reactions were completed, samples were extracted with chloroform and transferred to fresh tubes. Concentrated restriction enzyme buffers and enzymes were added to the reactions in order to cleave at the restriction sites present in the linkers. The digested PCR products were purified by gel

10 15 electrophoresis, then subcloned into vectors as described in the subcloning section above. DNA sequencing was done described as above.

8. DNA Sequence Analysis

20 DNA sequences were assembled using a fragment assembly program and the amino acid sequences deduced by the GCG programs GelAssemble, Map and Translate. The deduced protein sequences were searched using Word Search.

25 Analysis was done on a VAX Station 3100 workstation operating under VMS 5.1. The database search was done on SwissProt release number 21 using GCG Version 7.0.

9. Results

30 As indicated, to identify the DNA sequence encoding bovine GGF-II degenerate oligonucleotide probes were designed from GGF-II peptide sequences. GGF-II 12, a peptide generated via lysyl endopeptidase digestion of a purified GGF-II preparation (see Figures 11 and 12) showed strong amino acid sequence homology with GGF-I 07, a tryptic peptide generated from a purified GGF-I

preparation. GGF-II 12 was thus used to create ten degenerate oligonucleotide probes (see oligos 609, 610 and 649 to 656 in Figure 21). A duplicate set of filters were probed with two sets (set 1=609, 610; set 2=649-5 656) of probes encoding two overlapping portions of GGF-II 12. 46 hybridization signals were observed, however only one clone hybridized to both probe sets. The clone (designated GGF2BG1) was purified.

10 Southern blot analysis of DNA from the phage clone GGF2BG1 confirmed that both sets of probes hybridized with that bovine DNA sequence, and showed further that both probes reacted with the same set of DNA fragments within the clone. Based on those experiments a 4 kb Eco 15 RI sub-fragment of the original clone was identified, subcloned and partially sequenced. Figure 22 shows the nucleotide sequence and the deduced amino acid sequence of the initial DNA sequence readings that included the hybridization sites of probes 609 and 650, and confirmed 20 that a portion of this bovine genomic DNA encoded peptide 12 (KASLADSGEYIM).

25 Further sequence analysis demonstrated that GGF-II 12 resided on a 66 amino acid open reading frame (see below) which has become the focal point for the isolation of overlapping sequences representing a putative bovine GGF-II gene and a cDNA.

30 Several PCR procedures were used to obtain additional coding sequences for the putative bovine GGF-II gene. Total RNA and oligo dT-selected (poly A containing) RNA samples were prepared from bovine total pituitary, anterior pituitary, posterior pituitary, and hypothalamus. Using primers from the list shown in 35 Figure 23, one-sided PCR reactions (RACE) were used to amplify cDNA ends in both the 3' and 5' directions, and anchored PCR reactions were performed with degenerate

oligonucleotide primers representing additional GGF-II peptides. Figure 24 summarizes the contiguous DNA structures and sequences obtained in those experiments. From the 3' RACE reactions, three alternatively spliced cDNA sequences were produced, which have been cloned and sequenced. A 5' RACE reaction led to the discovery of an additional exon containing coding sequence for at least 52 amino acids. Analysis of that deduced amino acid sequence revealed peptides GGF-II-6 and a sequence similar to GGF-I-18 (see below). The anchored PCR reactions led to the identification of (cDNA) coding sequences of peptides GGF-II-1, 2, 3 and 10 contained within an additional cDNA segment of 300 bp. Thus this clone contains nucleotide sequences encoding six out of the existing total of nine novel GGF-II peptide sequences.

The cloned gene was characterized first by constructing a physical map of GGF2BG1 that allowed us to position the coding sequences as they were found (see below, Figure 25). DNA probes from the coding sequences described above have been used to further identify DNA fragments containing the exons on this phage clone and to identify clones that overlap in both directions. The putative bovine GGF-II gene is divided into at least 5 exons, but only exons A and B have been mapped thus far. The summary of the contiguous coding sequences identified is shown in Figure 26. The exons are listed (alphabetically) in the order of their discovery. It is apparent from the intron/exon boundaries that exon B may be included in cDNAs that connect exon E and exon A. That is, exon B cannot be spliced out without compromising the reading frame. Therefore, we suggest that three alternative splicing patterns can produce putative bovine GGF-II cDNA sequences 1, 2 and 3. The coding sequences of these, designated GGF2BPP1.CDS, GGF2BPP2.CDS and GGF2BPP3.CDS, respectively, are given in

Figures 28a, 28b and 28c, respectively. The deduced amino acid sequence of the three cDNAs is also given in Figures 28a, 28b and 28c.

5 The three deduced structures encode proteins of lengths 207, 258 and 264 amino acids. The first 183 residues of the deduced protein sequence is identical in all three gene products. At position 184 the clones differ significantly. A codon for glycine GGT in GGF2BPP1 also 10 serves as a splice donor for GGF2BPP2 and GGF2BPP3, which alternatively add on exons C and D or C, c/d and D, respectively. As the GGFIIbPP1 transcript ends adjacent to a canonical AATAAA polyadenylation sequence, we suggest that this truncated gene product represents a 15 bona fide mature transcript. The other two longer gene products share the same 3' untranslated sequence and polyadenylation site. Interestingly, however, as exon c/d is 68 nucleotides in length, GGF2BPP2 and GGF2BPP3 encode two distinct C-terminal sequences from the same 20 DNA sequence. That is, the final portion is encoded by two overlapping reading frames.

25 All three of these molecules contain six of the nine novel GGF-II peptide sequences (see Figure 12) and another peptide is highly homologous to GGF-I-18 (see Figure 27). This finding gives a high probability that this recombinant molecule encodes at least a portion of bovine GGF-II. Furthermore, the calculated isoelectric points for the three peptides are consistent with the 30 physical properties of GGF-I and II. Since the molecular size of GGF-II is roughly 60 kd, the longest of the three cDNAs should encode a protein with nearly one-half of the predicted number of amino acids. Similar procedures to those described above can be used to obtain the remaining 35 sequence in the full length clone.

EXAMPLE 5

GGF Splicing Variants

5 It is possible that the shorter gene product represented by splicing pattern 1 (see Figure 28a and Example 4) may bind the GGF receptor and lack Schwann cell mitogenic activity. Thus, it may represent a natural inhibitor of GGF-I and GGF-II. Recently, Chan et. al., *Science* 254:1382, (1991), have identified a competitive antagonist 10 of hepatocyte growth factor encoded by an alternative transcript which produces a truncated molecule. Therefore, there is biological precedent for truncated growth factors acting as natural antagonists. Such a molecule might be therapeutically useful. For example, a 15 natural inhibitor might be useful in treating a Schwannoma or other malignancies that are caused by overexpression of GGF-I and/or GGF-II. Preliminary hybridization and DNA sequence data indicate that some splicing variation may exist elsewhere in the gene; thus, 20 further splicing variants of GGF may exist, putting the total number at more than three.

EXAMPLE 625 GGF Sequences in Various Species

30 Database searching has not revealed any meaningful similarities with known protein sequences. This suggests that GGF-II is the first member of a new family or superfamily of proteins. In cross hybridization studies (DNA blotting experiments) with other mammalian DNAs we have shown clearly that DNA probes from this bovine recombinant molecule can readily detect specific 35 sequences in a variety of samples tested. A highly homologous sequence is also detected in human genomic DNA. The autoradiogram is shown in Figure 29. Furthermore, the blotting experiment shows that the probe

detects bands of lesser intensity that might represent related genes, other potential members of a GGF family.

EXAMPLE 7

5

Cloning GGF-II Using Nucleotide Sequence Information

10 The gene encoding GGF-II may be readily cloned by those of skill in the art from a bovine genomic or pituitary cDNA library by using unique probes or primers identical to portions of the coding sequence disclosed herein. Furthermore, any vertebrate (including human) GGF-II may be cloned by using a genomic or pituitary library prepared from the appropriate species and using the 15 approach described above (for the bovine sequence).

20 Thus, a cDNA library constructed using polyA RNA isolated from posterior pituitary can be plated (as described in Example 4) and plaque lifts probed with either radiolabelled fragments of GGF-II DNA (e.g. the 4 kb fragment released by a digest of cloned GGF2BG1 DNA with Eco RI). Alternatively a unique synthetic probe primer can be prepared from any GGF 2BG1 exon sequence, end 25 labelled and used to screen a library as described above in Example 4. A third approach is to use unique PCR primer sets (prepared in a similar fashion to the probes described above) to amplify specific products from a variety of nucleic acid sources (e.g. poly A+ RNA, genomic or cDNA library DNA). These products can be 30 subcloned and assembled to create a full length sequence encoding GGF-II.

EXAMPLE 8

35 Post-Translational Modification of GGF

The sequence of bovine GGF-II reveals several sites which

can potentially be used by a cell to add carbohydrate to the protein following translation of the corresponding messenger RNA. The amino acid sequence X(P excluded) NXT/SX (P excluded) is a signal for the addition of an N linked carbohydrate moiety and can be potentially modified in the cell. Within the amino acid stretch from residues 1 to 183 (shared by the three deduced protein sequences) potential glycosylation sites occur four times, at residues 50, 123, 170, 176. A fifth site exists at residue 183 in GGF2BPP2.PEP and GGF2BPP3.PEP. This site is removed in GGF2BPP1.PEP by an alternative splicing event. The potential glycosylation sites at residues 50 and 123 are probably glycosylated in the GGF-II proteins(s). This conclusion is drawn from the peptide sequence data. An examination of the actual peptide sequences encompassing residues 50 and 123 (peptides GGF-II-2 and GGFII-18) reveals that the carbohydrate modifiable residue (N) in each sequence is not identifiable suggesting, in fact, that these residues are indeed glycosylated and are not detected in the sequencing process.

EXAMPLE 9

25 Preparation of Antisera Directed Against a Portion of GGF-II

Antibodies directed against GGF-II can be used to characterize GGF-II at the protein level. For this purpose a portion of the GGF-II sequence (nucleotides 281 to 653 (Figure 28a), which encode a 115 residue amino acid sequence has been expressed in a bacterial fusion protein expression system. The DNA fragment encoding this peptide was inserted in vector pMAL-C2 (New England Biolabs) and the resultant fusion gene was expressed and the protein was processed according to the manufacturers instructions.

The resultant fusion protein was eluted from the purification column, cleaved with the enzyme factor Xa (which releases the GGF-II portion of the peptide), and 5 electrophoresed on a polyacrylamide gel, excised from the gel and used to immunize rabbits. Sera obtained from these rabbits following each boost can be tested by Western blot analysis (Burnette, Anal. Biochem. 112:195-203, 1983) of extracts prepared from bacteria harbouring 10 the overproducing plasmids. This analysis can reveal whether antibodies have been produced that recognize the bacterially produced immunogen. The animals can be boosted until a significant positive response is achieved 15 as determined in this assay. These antibodies may also be useful for diagnostic purposes.

EXAMPLE 10

Purification of GGFs From Recombinant Cells

20

In order to obtain full length or portions of GGFs to assay for biological activity, the proteins can be overproduced using cloned DNA. Several approaches can be used. A recombinant E. coli cell containing the 25 sequences described above in Example 4 ("Results") can be constructed. Expression systems such as pNH8a or pHH16a (Stratagene, Inc) can be used for this purpose by following manufacturers procedures. Alternatively, these sequences can be inserted in a mammalian expression 30 vector and an overproducing cell line can be constructed. As an example, for this purpose DNA encoding a GGF, with a homologous or a foreign secretion signal sequence attached, can be expressed in Chinese Hamster Ovary cells using the pMSXND expression vector (Lee and Nathans, J. 35 Biol. Chem. 263:3521-3527, 1981). This vector containing GGF DNA sequence can be transfected into CHO cells using established procedures.

G418-resistant clones can be grown in the presence of methotrexate to select for cells that amplify the dhfr gene (contained on the pMSXND vector) and, in the process, co-amplify the adjacent GGF protein encoding sequence. Because CHO cells can be maintained in a totally protein-free medium (Hamilton and Ham. In Vitro 13:537-547, 1977), the desired protein can be purified from the medium. Western analysis using the antisera produced in Example 8 can be used to detect the presence of the desired protein in the conditioned medium of the overproducing cells.

The desired protein can be purified from the E. coli lysate or the CHO cell conditioned medium using procedures described in Example 1.

The protein may be assayed at various points in the procedure using the Western blot assay described in Example 9. Alternatively, the Schwann cell mitogenic assay described herein may be used to assay the expressed product of the full length clone or any biologically active portions thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A polypeptide factor having glial cell mitogenic activity and including an amino acid sequence encoded by:-
 - 5 (a) a DNA sequence shown in any one of Figures 28a, 28b or 28c;
 - 10 (b) a DNA sequence shown in Figure 22;
 - (c) the DNA sequence represented by nucleotides 281-557 of the sequence shown in Figure 28a; or
 - 15 (d) a DNA sequence hybridizable to any one of the DNA sequences according to (a), (b) or (c).
2. A basic polypeptide factor having a molecular weight, whether in reducing conditions or not, of from about 30 kD to about 36 kD on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using the following molecular weight standards:

25	Lysozyme (hen egg white)	14,400
	Soybean trypsin inhibitor	21,500
	Carbonic anhydrase (bovine)	31,000
	Ovalbumin (hen egg white)	45,000
	Bovine serum albumin	66,200
	Phosphorylase B (rabbit muscle)	97,400;
- 30 35 which factor has mitogenic activity stimulating the division of rat Schwann cells in the presence of foetal calf plasma, and when isolated using reversed-phase HPLC retains at least 50% of said activity after 10 weeks incubation in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid at 4°C.
3. A basic polypeptide factor having a molecular

weight, under non-reducing conditions, of from about 55 kD to about 63 kD on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using the following molecular weight standards:

5

	Lysozyme (hen egg white)	14,400
	Soybean trypsin inhibitor	21,500
	Carbonic anhydrase (bovine)	31,000
	Ovalbumin (hen egg white)	45,000
10	Bovine serum albumin	66,200
	Phosphorylase B (rabbit muscle)	97,400;

15 which factor has mitogenic activity stimulating the division of rat Schwann cells in the presence of foetal calf plasma, and when isolated using reversed-phase HPLC retains at least about 50% of said activity after 4 days incubation in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid at 4°C.

20 4. A process for the preparation of a polypeptide defined in claim 2 or claim 3, comprising extracting vertebrate brain material to obtain protein, subjecting the resulting extract to chromatographic purification comprising hydroxylapatite HPLC and thereafter to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and collecting that 25 fraction therefrom which has an observed molecular weight of about 30 kD to 36 kD and/or that fraction which has an observed molecular weight of about 55 kD to 63 kD if, in either case, subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using the following molecular weight 30 standards:

	Lysozyme (hen egg white)	14,400
	Soybean trypsin inhibitor	21,500
	Carbonic anhydrase (bovine)	31,000
35	Ovalbumin (hen egg white)	45,000
	Bovine serum albumin	66,200
	Phosphorylase B (rabbit muscle)	97,400;

in the case of the aforesaid smaller molecular weight fraction whether in reducing conditions or not, and in the case of the aforesaid larger molecular weight

5 fraction under non-reducing conditions, and which fraction(s) exhibit(s) mitogenic activity stimulating the division of rat Schwann cells against a background of foetal calf plasma.

10 5. A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the brain material is pituitary material.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the source of pituitary material is bovine.

15 7. A process as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the protein initially extracted from brain material is first subjected to carboxymethyl cellulose chromatography.

20 8. A process as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 7 also including, after hydroxylapatite HPLC, cation exchange chromatography, gel filtration, and/or reversed-phase HPLC.

25 9. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein reversed-phase HPLC is employed using trifluoroacetic acid as an ion pairing agent.

30 10. A process as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 9, wherein at each stage biological activity of material obtained is assessed as the level of mitogenic activity stimulating the division of rat Schwann cells against a background of foetal calf plasma.

35 11. A basic polypeptide factor having mitogenic activity stimulating the division of Schwann cells in the presence

of foetal calf plasma, having a molecular weight of from about 30 kD to about 36 kD, and including within its amino acid sequence any one or more of the following peptide sequences:-

5

F K G D A H T E
A S L A D E Y E Y M X K
T E T S S S G L X L K
A S L A D E Y E Y M R K
10 A G Y F A E X A R
T T E M A S E Q G A
A K E A L A A L K
F V L Q A K K
E T Q P D P G Q I L K K V P M V I G A Y T
15 E Y K C L K F K W F K K A T V M
E X K F Y V V P
K L E F L X A K

12. A basic polypeptide factor having mitogenic activity
20 stimulating the division of Schwann cells in the presence
of foetal calf plasma, molecular weight of from about 55
kD to about 63 kD, and including within its amino acid
sequence any one or more of the following peptide
sequences:-

25

V H Q V W A A K
Y I F F M E P E A X S S G
L G A W G P P A F P V X Y
W F V V I E G K
30 A S P V S V G S V Q E L V Q R
V C L L T V A A P P T
K V H Q V W A A K
K A S L A D S G E Y M X K
D L L L X V

35

13. An assay for glial cell mitogenic activity in which
a background of foetal calf plasma is employed against

which to assess DNA synthesis in glial cells stimulated (if at all) by a substance under assay.

14. An assay as claimed in claim 13, wherein the glial 5 cells are Schwann cells.

15. A DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having glial cell mitogenic activity and comprising:-

10 (a) a DNA sequence shown in any one of Figures 28a, 28b or 28c;

(b) a DNA sequence shown in Figure 22;

15 (c) the DNA sequence represented by nucleotides 281-557 of the sequence shown in Figure 28a; or

(d) a DNA sequence hybridizable to any one of the DNA sequences according to (a), (b) or (c).

20 16. A DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence as defined in claim 15 and in operable reading frame position in a vector under the control of a control sequence permitting expression of said sequence in chosen host cells after 25 transformation of said cells by said construct.

17. Host cells modified by incorporating a construct as defined in claim 16 so that said DNA sequence may be expressed in said host cells.

30 18. A process for the preparation of a glial cell mitogenic factor comprising cultivating modified host cells as defined in claim 17 under conditions permitting expression of said DNA sequence.

35 19. A polypeptide which is a glial cell mitogen and which is encoded by a DNA sequence as defined in claim 15

and which is obtainable by a process as defined in claim 18.

20. A pharmaceutical or veterinary formulation 5 comprising a polypeptide as defined in any of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 or 19 formulated for pharmaceutical or veterinary use, respectively, optionally together with an acceptable diluent, carrier or excipient and/or in unit dosage form.

10 21. The use of a polypeptide defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 or 19 as a glial cell mitogen in vivo or in vitro.

15 22. A polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 or 19 for use as a glial cell mitogen.

20 23. A method for producing a glial cell mitogenic effect in a vertebrate by administering an effective amount of a polypeptide defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19.

25 24. A method as claimed in claim 23 when used in the treatment or prophylaxis or a nervous disease or disorder.

30 25. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of pathophysiological condition of the nervous system in which a cell type is involved which is sensitive or responsive to a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19, comprising administering an effective amount of said polypeptide.

35 26. A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the condition involves peripheral nerve damage.

27. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a

condition which involves demyelination or damage or loss of Schwann cells, for example a neuropathy of sensory or motor nerve fibres, which comprises administering an effective amount of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19.

5

28. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a neurodegenerative disorder, which comprises administering an effective amount of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19.

10

29. A method for inducing neural regeneration and/or repair comprising administering an effective amount of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19.

15

30. A method of inducing fibroblast proliferation which includes subjecting fibroblasts to the presence of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19.

20

31. The use of a method as defined in claim 30 for wound repair purposes.

25

32. The use of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19 in the manufacture of a medicament.

30

33. The use of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19 as an immunogen to generate antibodies, optionally said antibodies being for diagnostic purposes.

35

34. The use of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19 in a competitive assay to identify or quantify molecules having receptor binding characteristics corresponding to those of said

polypeptide.

35. The use of claim 34, wherein said polypeptide is labelled, optionally with a radioisotope.

5

36. The use of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19 in an affinity isolation process, optionally affinity chromatography, for the separation of a corresponding receptor.

10

37. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a glial tumour, which comprises administering an effective amount of a substance which inhibits the binding of a factor as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, or 19 to a receptor therefor.

15

38. A peptide selected from the following:-

F K G D A H T E

20

A S L A D E Y E Y M X K

T E T S S S G L X L K

A S L A D E Y E Y M R K

A G Y F A E X A R

T T E M A S E Q G A

25

A K E A L A A L K

F V L Q A K K

E T Q P D P G Q I L K K V P M V I G A Y T

E Y K C L K F K W F K K A T V M

E X K F Y V P

30

K L E F L X A K

V H Q V W A A K

Y I F F M E P E A X S S G

L G A W G P P A F P V X Y

W F V V I E G K

35

A S P V S V G S V Q E L V Q R

V C L L T V A A P P T

K V H Q V W A A K

K A S L A D S G E Y M X K
D L L L X V

39. The use of a peptide as defined in claim 38, or a
5 corresponding nucleic acid sequence, in investigating,
isolating or preparing a glial cell mitogen or a gene
sequence corresponding thereto, or in generating a
corresponding antibody.

10 40. A DNA sequence as shown in any one of Figures 28a,
28b and 28c.

41. A polypeptide encoded by a DNA sequence as defined
in claim 40.

15 42. An antibody to a polypeptide as defined in any one
of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 19 or 41.

43. An antibody to a peptide as defined in claim 38.

20 44. An isolated glial cell mitogenic activity encoding
gene sequence, or fragment thereof, obtainable by the use
defined in claim 39.

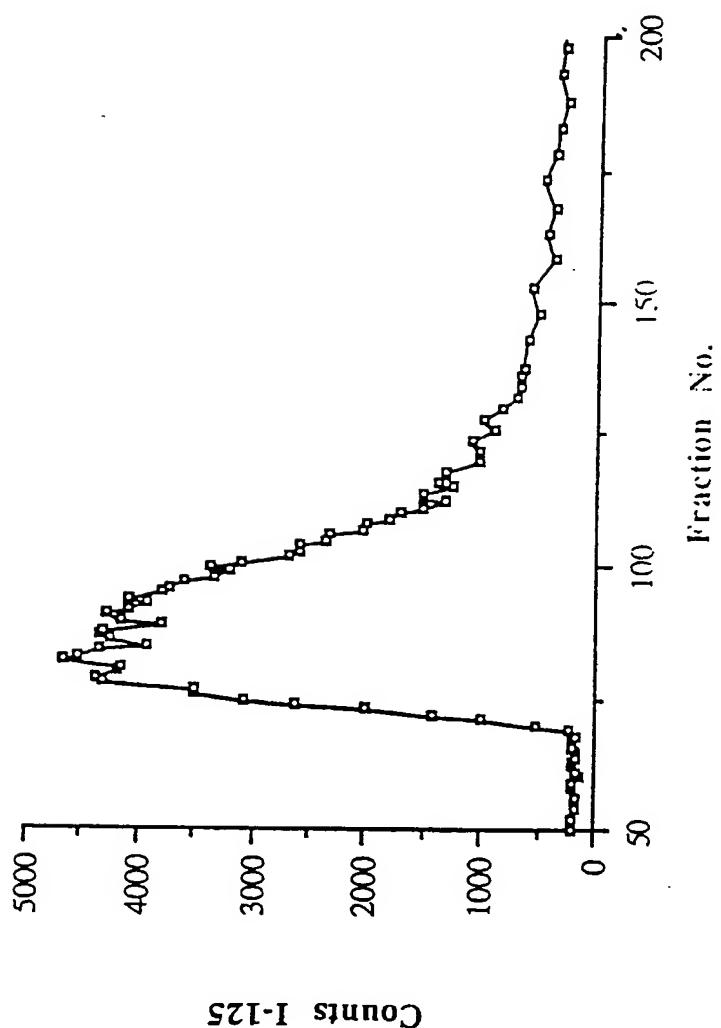


FIGURE 1

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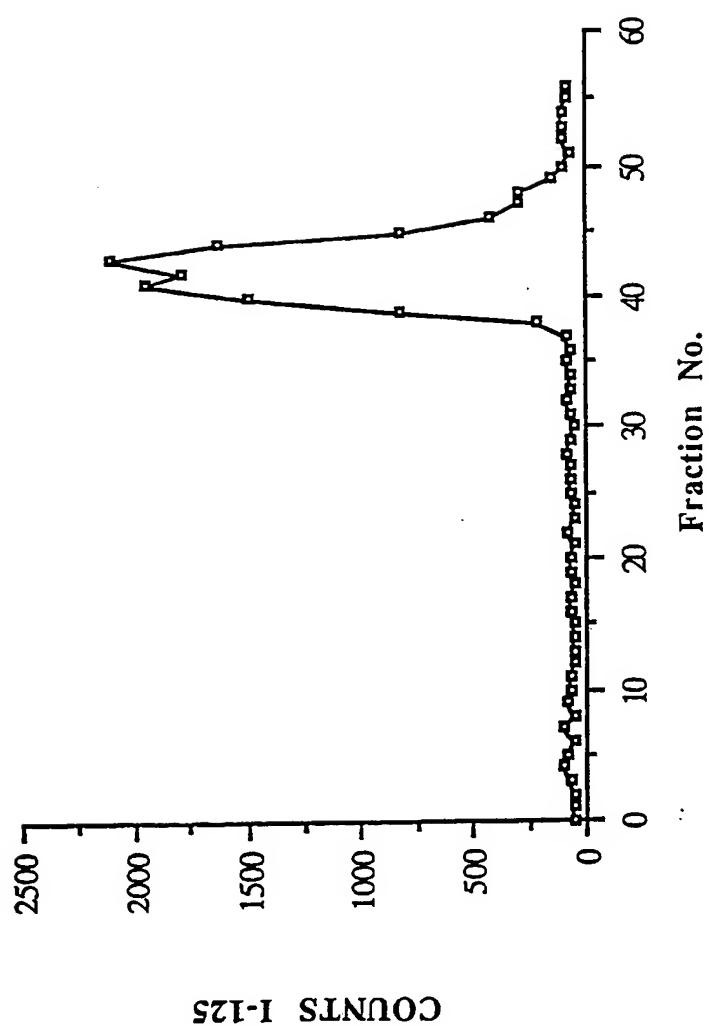


FIGURE 2

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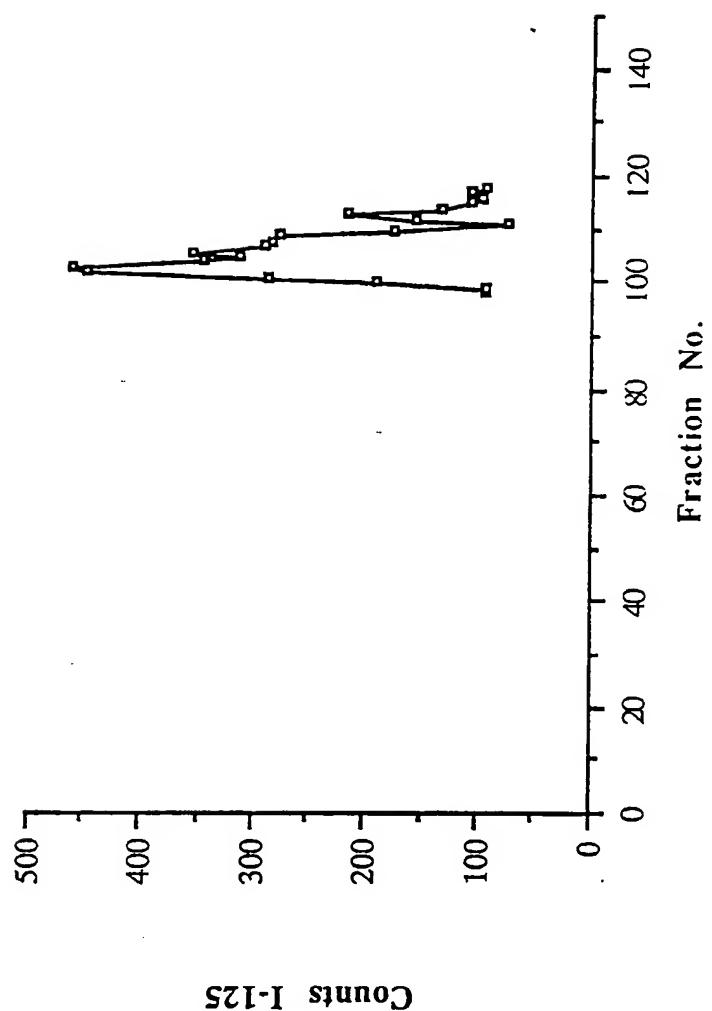


FIGURE 3

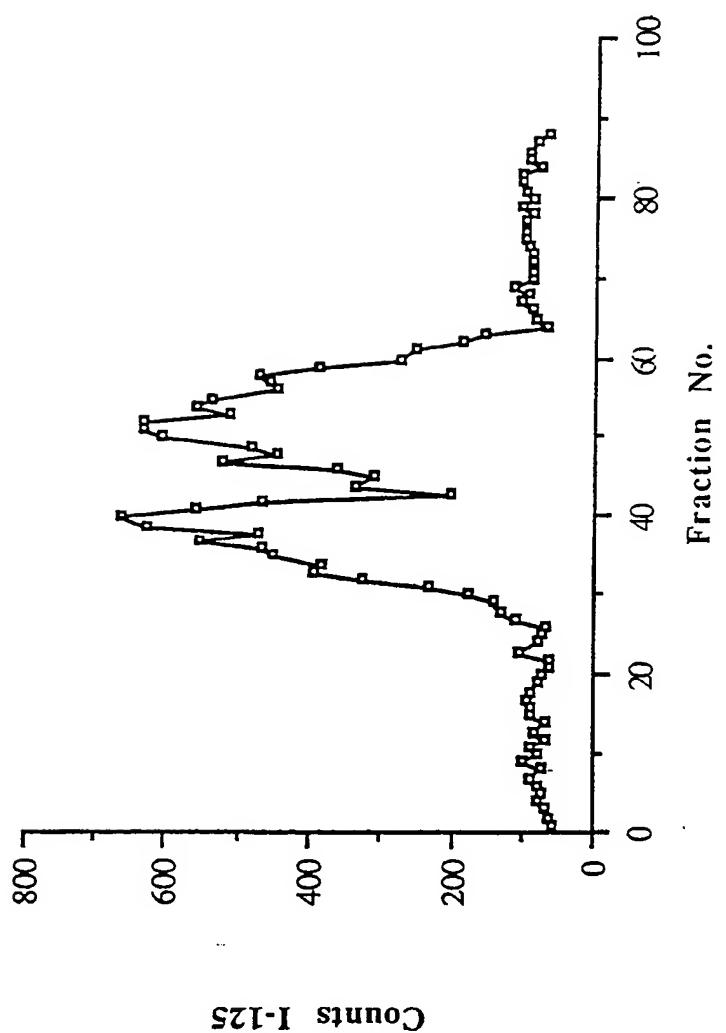


FIGURE 4

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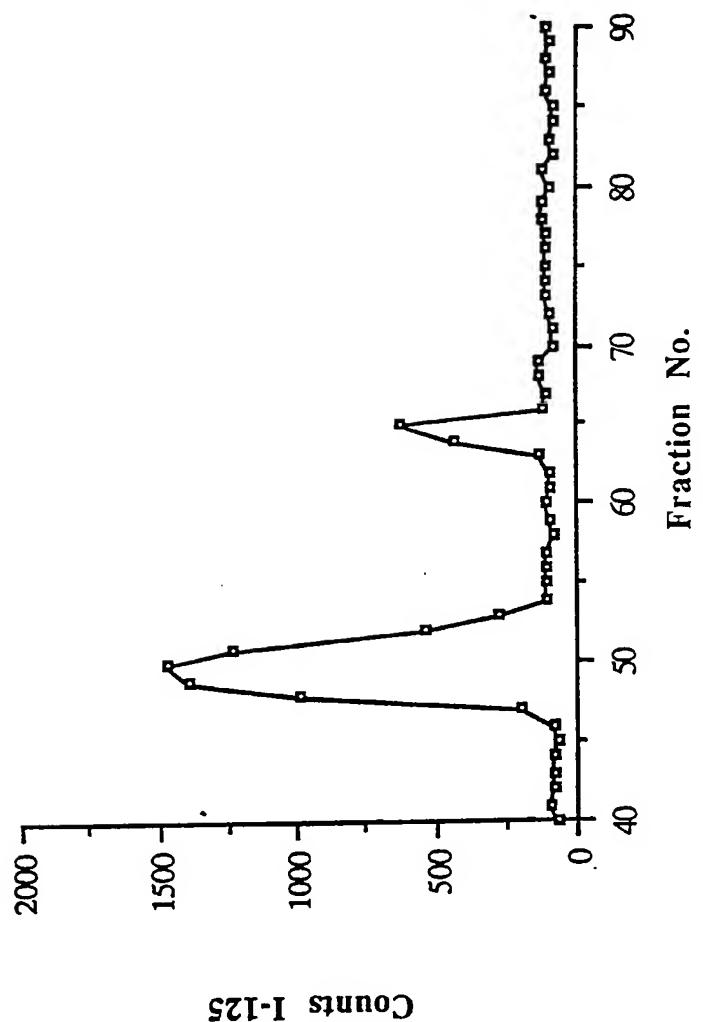


FIGURE 5

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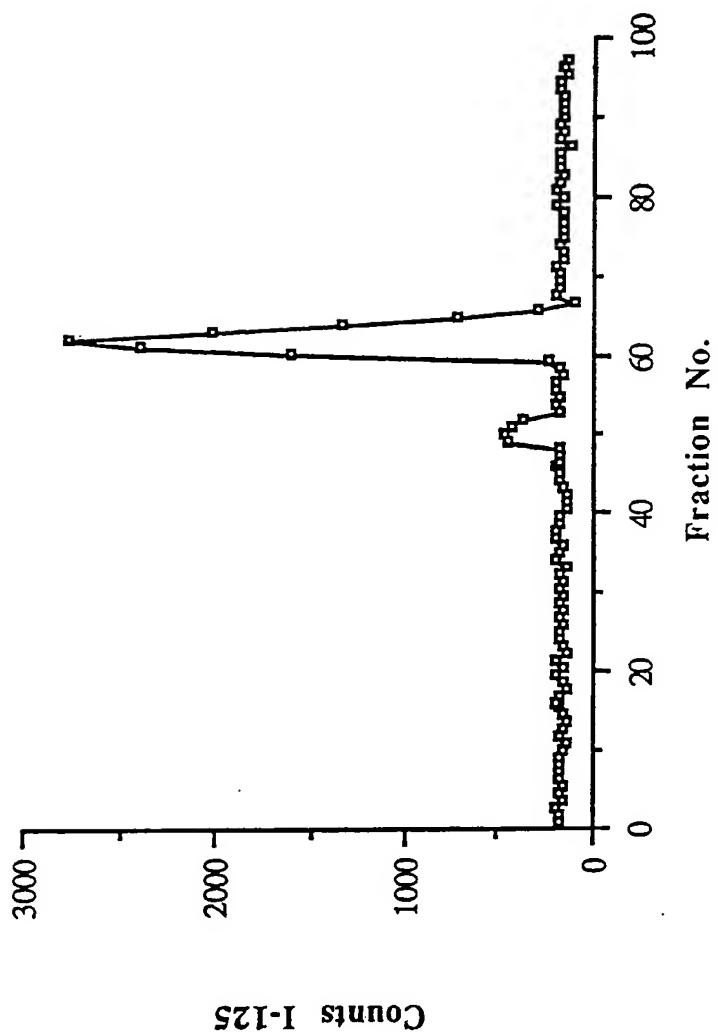


FIGURE 6

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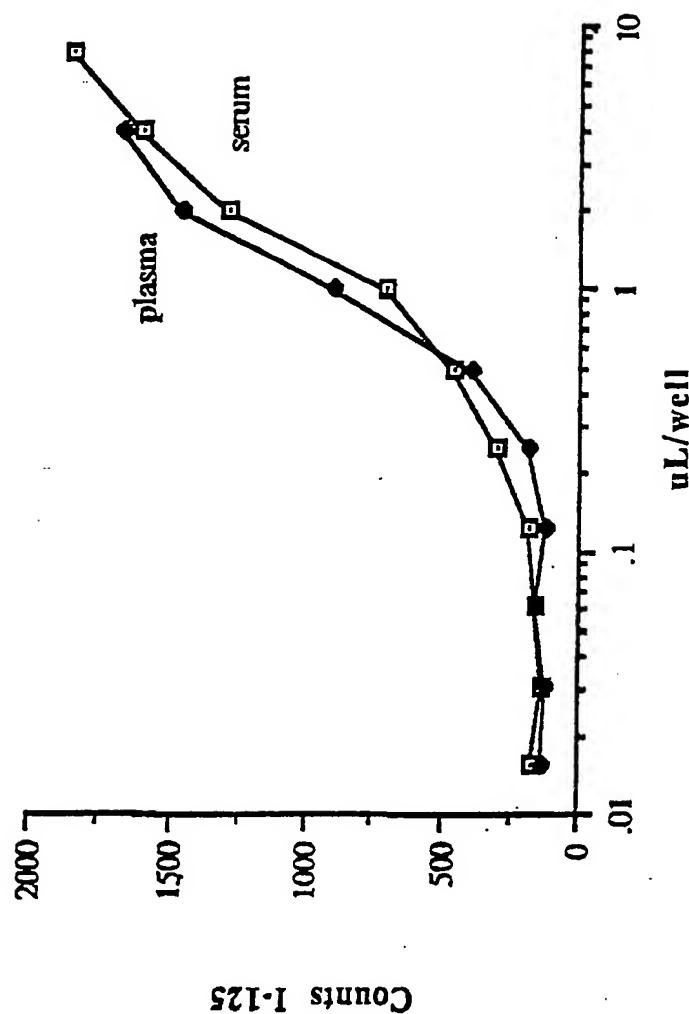


FIGURE 7

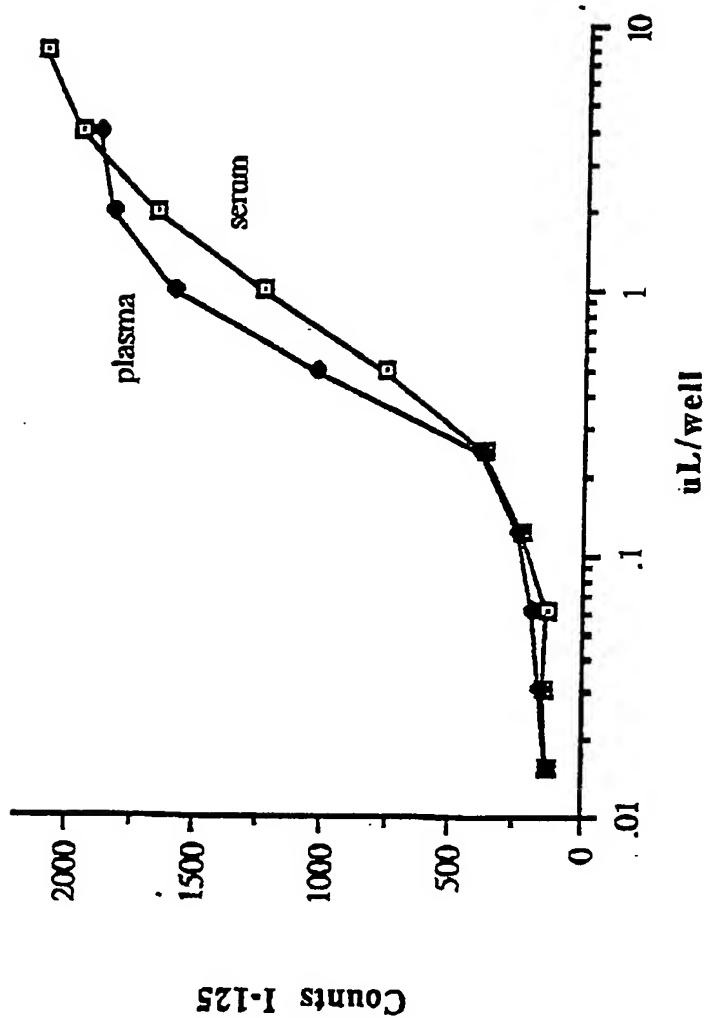


FIGURE 8

GGF-I 01 F K G D A H T E
N-terminus

Trypsin peptides
 GGF-I 02 K R A S L A D E Y E Y M X K .
 GGF-I 03 K R T E T S S G L X L K .
 GGF-I 04 K R K L G E M W A E
 GGF-I 05 K R L G E K R A
 GGF-I 06 K R I K S E H A G L S I G D T A K .
 GGF-I 07 K R A S L A D E Y E Y M R K .
 GGF-I 08 K R I K G E H P G L S I G D V A K .
 GGF-I 09 K R M S E Y A F F V Q T X R .
 GGF-I 10 K R S E H P G L S I G D T A K .
 GGF-I 11 K R A G Y F A E X A R .
 GGF-I 12 K R K L E F L X A K .
 GGF-I 13 K R T T E M A S E Q G A
 GGF-I 14 K R A K E A L A A L K .
 GGF-I 15 K R F V L Q A K K .
 GGF-I 16 K R L G E M W

HMG-1

HMG-1
HMG-1?

HMG-1
HMG-2

HMG-1
HMG-2

Protease V8 peptides

E T Q P D P G Q I L K K V P M V I G A Y T
 E Y K C L K F K W F K K A T V M
 E A K Y F S K X D A
 E X K F Y V P
 E L S F A S V R L P G C P P G V D P M V S F P V A L
 HMG-1
LH-alpha
LH-beta

FIGURE 9

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A

GGF-I 01 F K G D A H T E
GGF-I 02 A S L A D E Y E Y M X K
GGF-I 03 T E T S S S G L X L K
GGF-I 07 A S L A D E Y E Y M R K
GGF-I 11 A G Y F A E X A R
GGF-I 13 T T E M A S E Q G A
GGF-I 14 A K E A L A A L K
GGF-I 15 F V L Q A K K
GGF-I 17 E T Q P D P G Q I L K K V P M V I G A Y T
GGF-I 18 E Y K C L K F K W F K K A T V M

B

GGF-I 20 E X K F Y V P
GGF-I 12 K L E F L X A K

FIGURE 10

	Trypsin peptides	Histone H1	Trypsin	Lysyl Endopeptidase-C peptides
GGF-II 01	K/R V H Q V W A A K *			
GGF-II 02	K/R Y I F F M E P E A X S S G			
GGF-II 03	K/R L G A W G P P A F P V X Y			
GGF-II 04	K/R W F V V I E G K *			
GGF-II 05	K/R A L A A A G Y D V E K *			
GGF-II 06	K/R L V L R *			
GGF-II 07	K/R X X Y P G Q I T S N			
GGF-II 08	K/R A S P V S V G S V Q E L V Q R *			
GGF-II 09	K/R V C L L T V A A P P T			
GGF-II 10	K/R D L L L X V			
GGF-II 11	K V H Q V W A A K *			
GGF-II 12	K A S L A D S G E Y M X K *			

FIGURE 11

A

GGF-II 01 V H Q V V W A A K
GGF-II 02 Y I F F M E P P E A X S S G
GGF-II 03 L G A W G P P A F P V X Y
GGF-II 04 W F V V I E G K
GGF-II 08 A S P V S V G S V Q E L V Q R
GGF-II 09 V C L L T V A A P P T
GGF-II 11 K V H Q V V W A A K
GGF-II 12 K A S L A D S G E Y M X K

B Novel Factor II Peptides - others

GGF-II 10 D L L L X V

FIGURE 12

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

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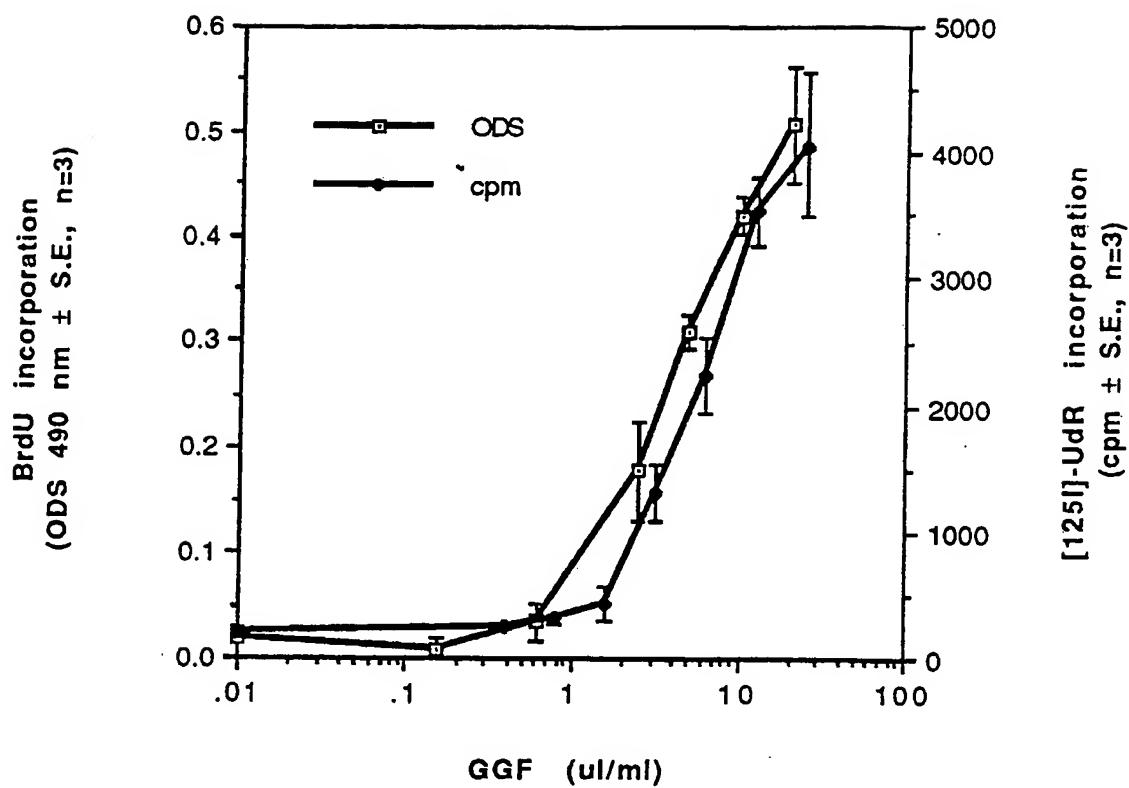


FIGURE 13

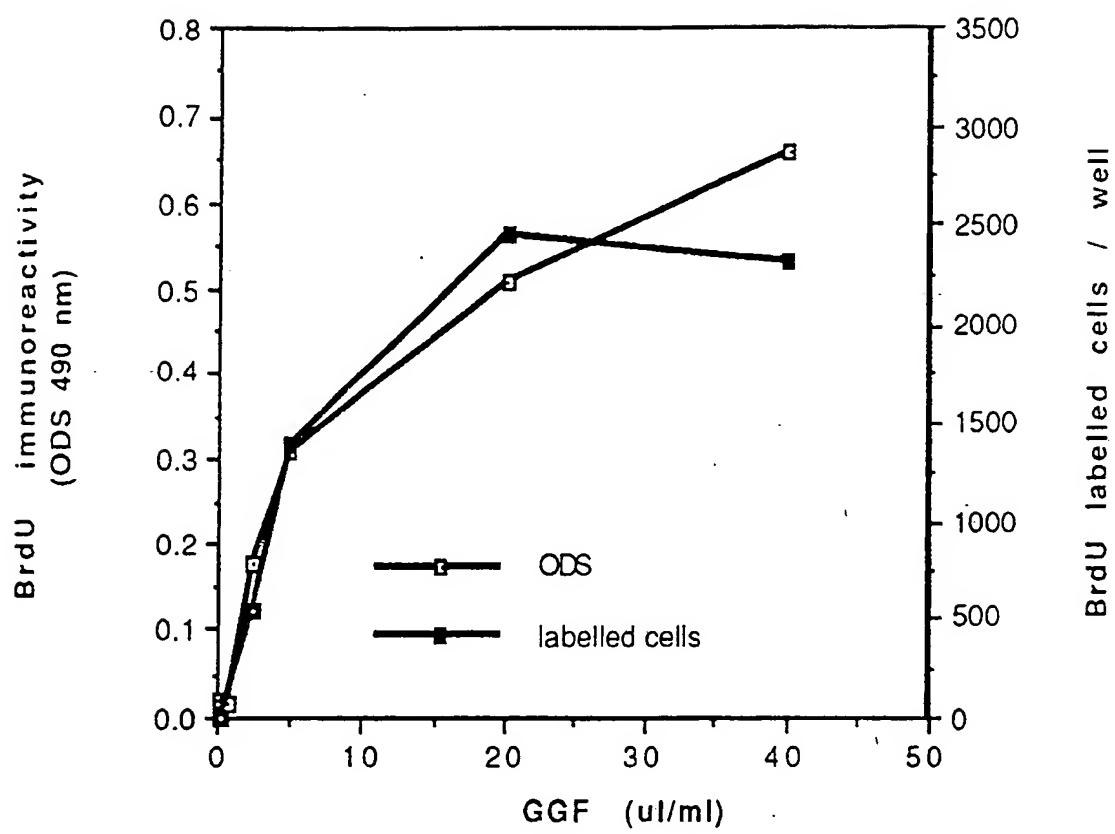


FIGURE 14A

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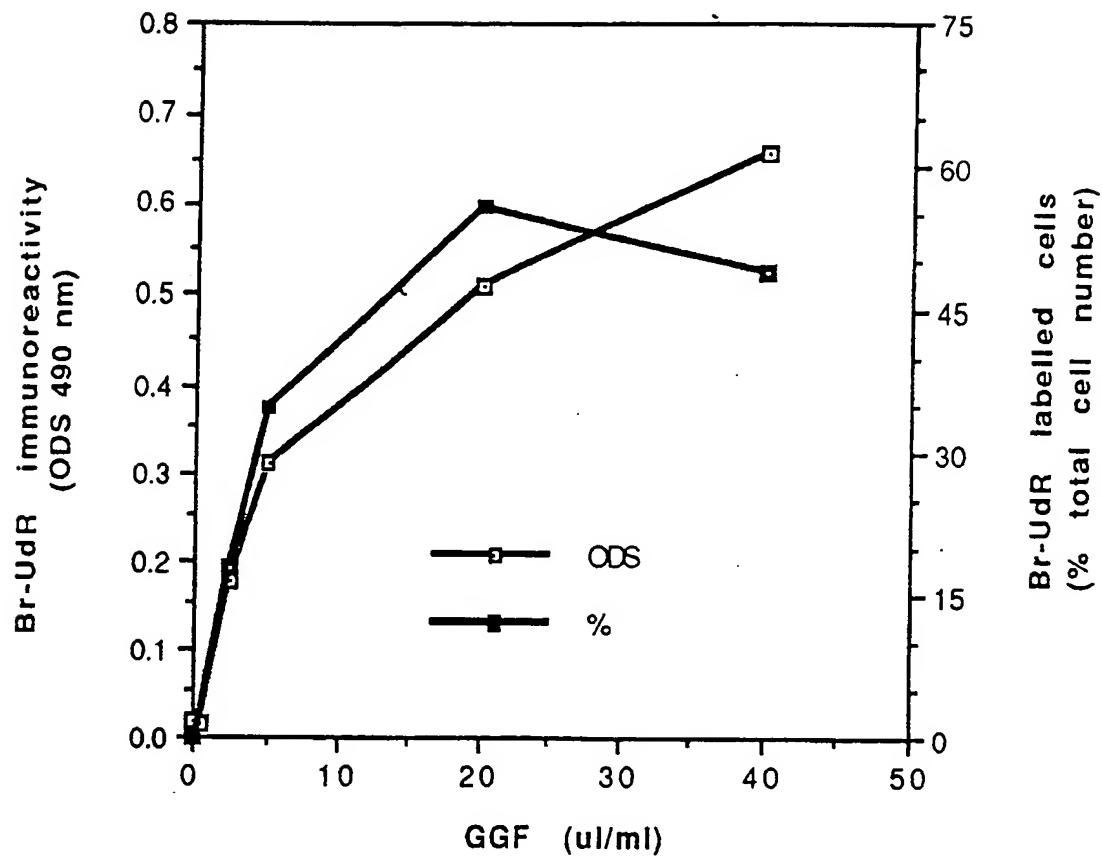


FIGURE 14B

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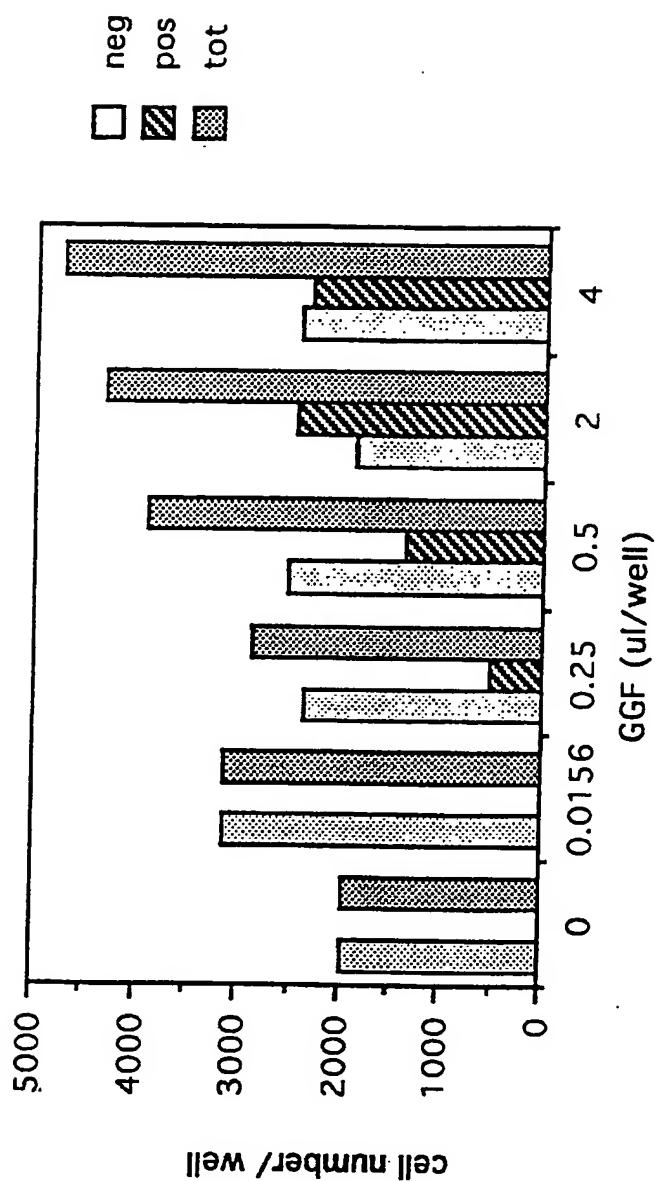


FIGURE 15

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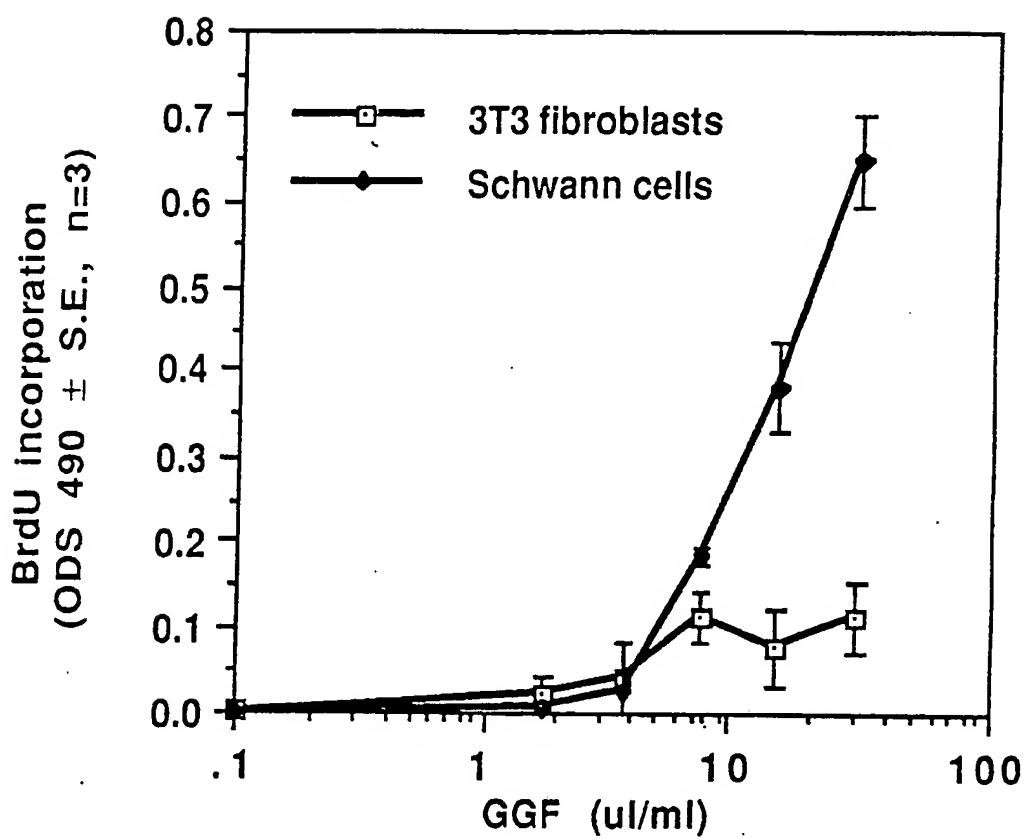


FIGURE 16

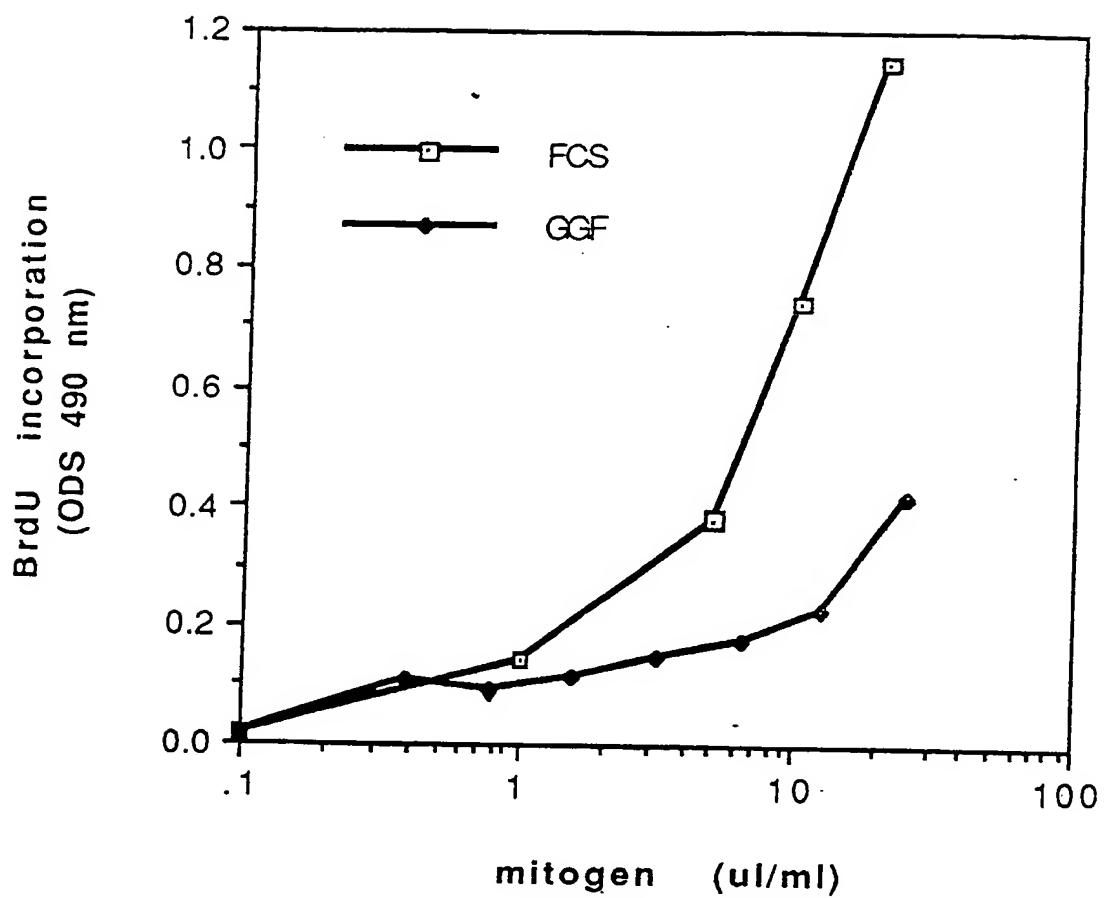


FIGURE 17

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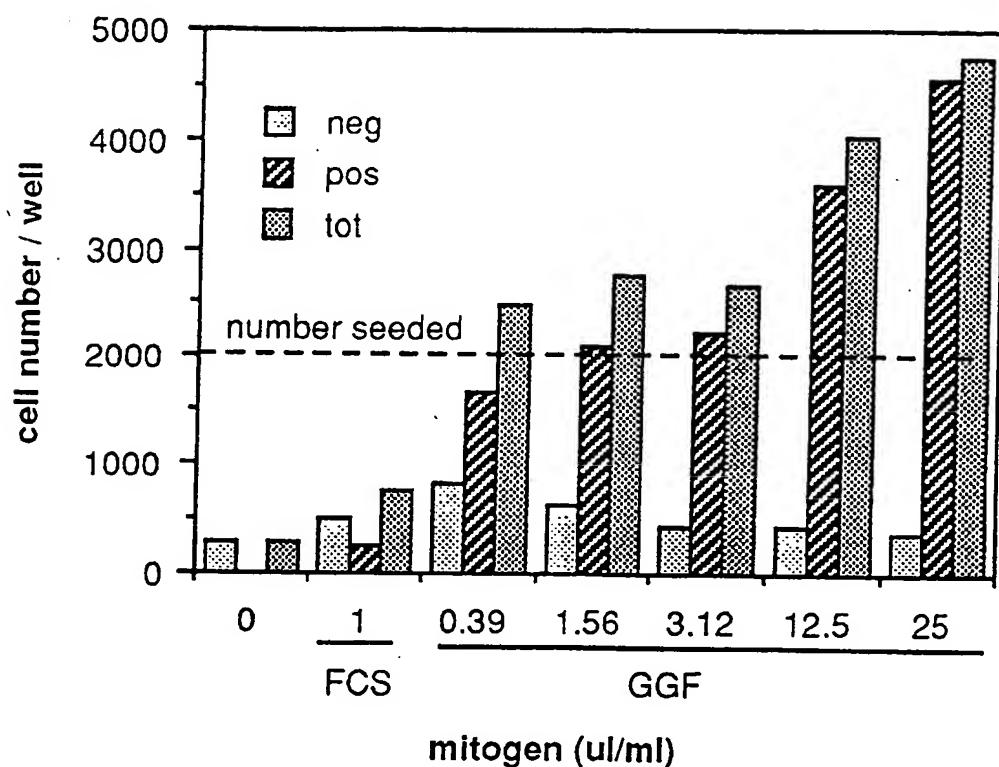


FIGURE 18

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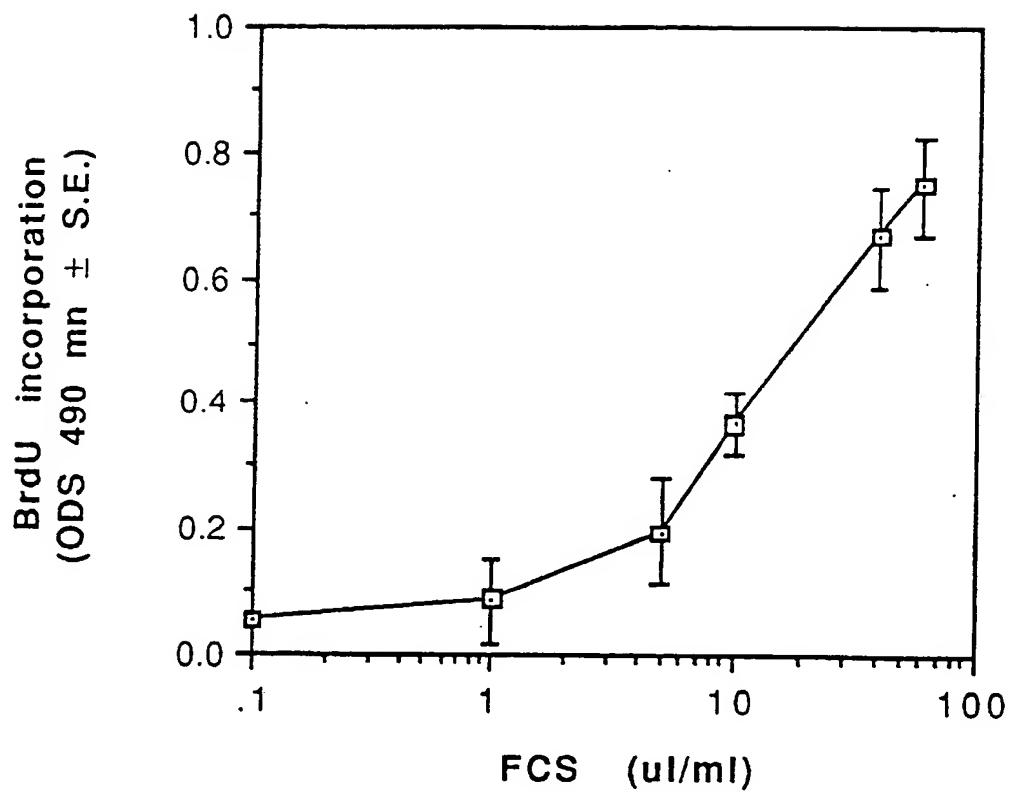


FIGURE 19

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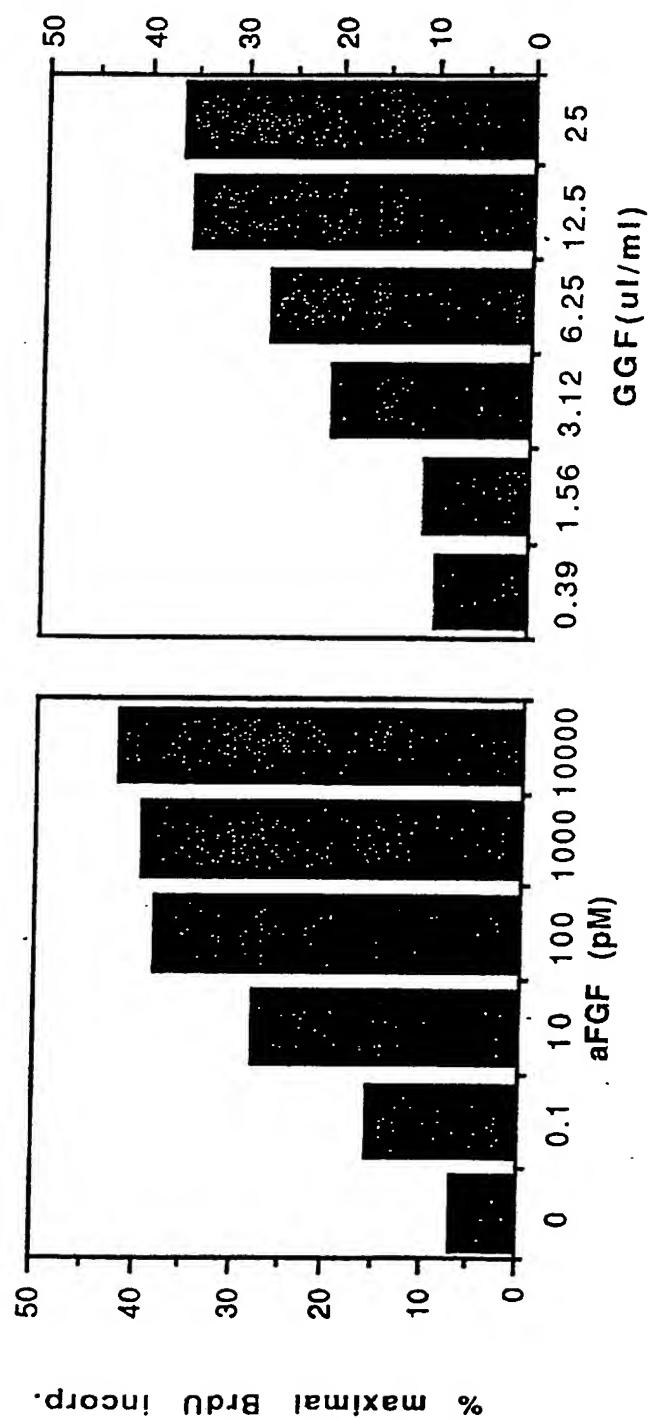


FIGURE 20

Oligo	Sequence	Peptide
535	TTYAARGGNGAYGCNCAYAC!	GGFI-1
536	CATRTAYTCRTAYTCRTCNGC!	GGFI-2
537	TGYTCNGANGCCATYTCNGT!	GGFI-13
538	TGYTCRCTNGCCATYTCNGT!	GGFI-13
539	CCDATNACCATNGGNACYTT!	GGFI-17
540	GCNGCCCACACYTGRGNAC!	GGFII-1
541	GCYTCNGGYTCCATRAARAA!	GGFII-2
542	CCYTCDATNACNACRAACCA!	GGFII-4
543	TCNGCRAARTANCCNGC!	GGFI-11
544	GCNGCNAGNGCYTCYTTNGC!	GGFI-14
545	GCNGCYAANGCYTCYTTNGC!	GGFI-14
546	TTYTTNGCYTGNAGNACRAA!	GGFI-15
551	TTYTTNGCYTGYAANACRAA!	GGFI-15
568	TGNACNAGYTCYTGNAC!	GGFII-8
569	TGNACYAAYTCTGNAC!	GGFII-8
609	CATRTAYTCNCCNGARTCNGC!	GGFII-12
610	CATRTAYTCNCCRTRTCNGC!	GGFII-12
649	NGARTCNGCYAANGANGCYTT!	GGFII-12
650	NGARTCNGCNAGNGANGCYTT!	GGFII-12
651	RCTRTCNGCYAANGANGCYTT!	GGFII-12
652	RCTRTCNGCNAGNGANGCYTT!	GGFII-12
653	NGARTCNGCYAARCTNGCYTT!	GGFII-12
654	NGARTCNGCNAGRCTNGCYTT!	GGFII-12
655	RCTRTCNGCYAARCTNGCYTT!	GGFII-12
656	RCTRTCNGCNAGRCTNGCYTT!	GGFII-12
659	ACNACNGARATGGCTCNNGA!	GGFI-13
660	ACNACNGARATGGCAGYNGA!	GGFI-13
661	CAYCARGTNTGGGCNGCNAA!	GGFII-1
662	TTYGTNGTNATHGARGGNAA!	GGFII-4
663	AARGGNGAYGCNCAYACNGA!	GGFI-1
664	GARGCNYTNGCNGCNYTNAA!	GGFI-14
665	GTNGGNTCNGTNCARGARYT!	GGFII-8
666	GTNGGNAGYGTNCARGARYT!	GGFII-8
694	NACYTTYTTNARHATYTGNCC!	GGFI-17

FIGURE 21

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TCTAAACTACAGAGACTGTATTTCATGATCATAGTTCTGTGAAATATCTTAAACCGCTTGGTCTGATCTTGTAGGAAGTCAGAACCTCGCAT 100
 * N Y R D C I F M I I V L * N I L K P L W S * S C R K S E L R I

 TAGCAAAAGGTCACTGGCTGATTCAGGAAATACTAGGAAATGACAGTGGCTCTGCCAACATCACCAATTGGAGGTCA 200
 S K A S L A D S G E Y M C K V I S K L G N D S A S A N I T I V E S

 AACGGTAAGAGATGGCTACTGGTGTCTAGTCCTAAGGGTGTCAAGGTATGTGGTCACACITGAATCACGGCAGGTGTGAAATCTCAT 300
 N G K R C L L R A I S Q S L R G V I K V C G H T * I T Q V C E I S L

 TGTGAAACAAATAAAATCATGAAAGGAAACTCTATGTTGAAATATCTTATGGGTCTCTGAAAGCTCTTCACTCCATAAGGTGAAATAGCCTGAA 400
 * T N K N H E R K T L C L K Y L M G P P V K L F T P * G E I D L K

 ATATATATAGATTATT
 Y I * I I

FIGURE 22

Degenerate PCR primers

Oligo	Sequence	Peptide
657	CCGAATTCTGCAGGARACNCARCCNGAYCCNGG!	GGFI-17
658	AAGGATCCTGCAGNGTRTANGNCNCHATNACCATNGG!	GGFI-17
667	CCGAATTCTGCAGGCNGAYTCNGGNGARTAYATG!	GGFII-12
668	CCGAATTCTGCAGGCNGAYATGGNGARTAYAT!	GGFII-12
669	AAGGATCCTGCAGNNNCATRTAYTCNCCNGARTC!	GGFII-12
670	AAGGATCCTGCAGNNNCATRTAYTCNCCRRTTC!	GGFII-12
671	CCGAATTCTGCAGCAYCARGNTNTGGCNGCNA!	GGFII-1
672	CCGAATTCTGCAGATHTTYATGGARCCNGARG!	GGFII-2
673	CCGAATTCTGCAGGGGNCCNCCNGCNTTYCCNGT!	GGFII-3
674	CCGAATTCTGCAGTGGTYGTNGTNATHGARGG!	GGFII-4
677	AAGGATCCTGCAGYTTNGCNGCCANACYTGRG!	GGFII-1
678	AAGGATCCTGCAGGCYTCNGGYTCATRAARAA!	GGFII-2
679	AAGGATCCTGCAGACNGGRAANGCNGGGNCC!	GGFII-3
680	AAGGATCCTGCAGYTTNCYTCDATNACNACRAAC!	GGFII-4
681	CATRTAYTCRTAYTCTCNGCAAGGATCCTGCAG!	GGFI-2
682	CCGAATTCTGCAGAARGGGNGAYGCNCAYACNGA!	GGFI-1
683	GCNGCYAANGCYRCYTTNGCAAGGATCCTGCAG!	GGFI-14
684	GCNGCNAGNGCYTCYTTNGCAAGGATCCTGCAG!	GGFI-14
685	TCNGCRAARTANCCNGCAAGGATCCTGCAG!	GGFII-1

Unique PCR primers for Factor II

Oligo	Sequence	Comment
711	CATCGATCTGCAGGCTGATTCTGGAGAATATATGTGCA!	3' RACE
712	AAGGATCCTGCAGCCACATCTCGAGTCGACATCGATT!	3' RACE
713	CCGAATTCTGCAGTGATCAGCAAACTAGGAAATGACA!	3' RACE
721	CATCGATCTGCAGCCTAGTTGCTGATCACTTTGCAC!	5' RACE
722	AAGGATCCTGCAGTATATTCTCCAGAATCAGCCAGTG!	5' RACE; ANCHORED
725	AAGGATCCTGCAGGCACGCAGTAGGCATCTCTTA!	EXON A
726	CCGAATTCTGCAGCAGAACTTCGCATTAGCAAAGC!	EXON A
771	CATCCCGGGATGAAGAGTCAGGAGTCTGTGGCA!	EXONS B+A
772	ATACCCGGGCTGCAGACAATGAGATTTCACACACCTGCG!	
773	AAGGATCCTGCAGTTGGAACCTGCCACAGACTCCT!	ANCHORED
776	ATACCCGGGCTGCAGATGAGATTTCACACACACCTGCGTGA!	EXONS B+A

FIGURE 23

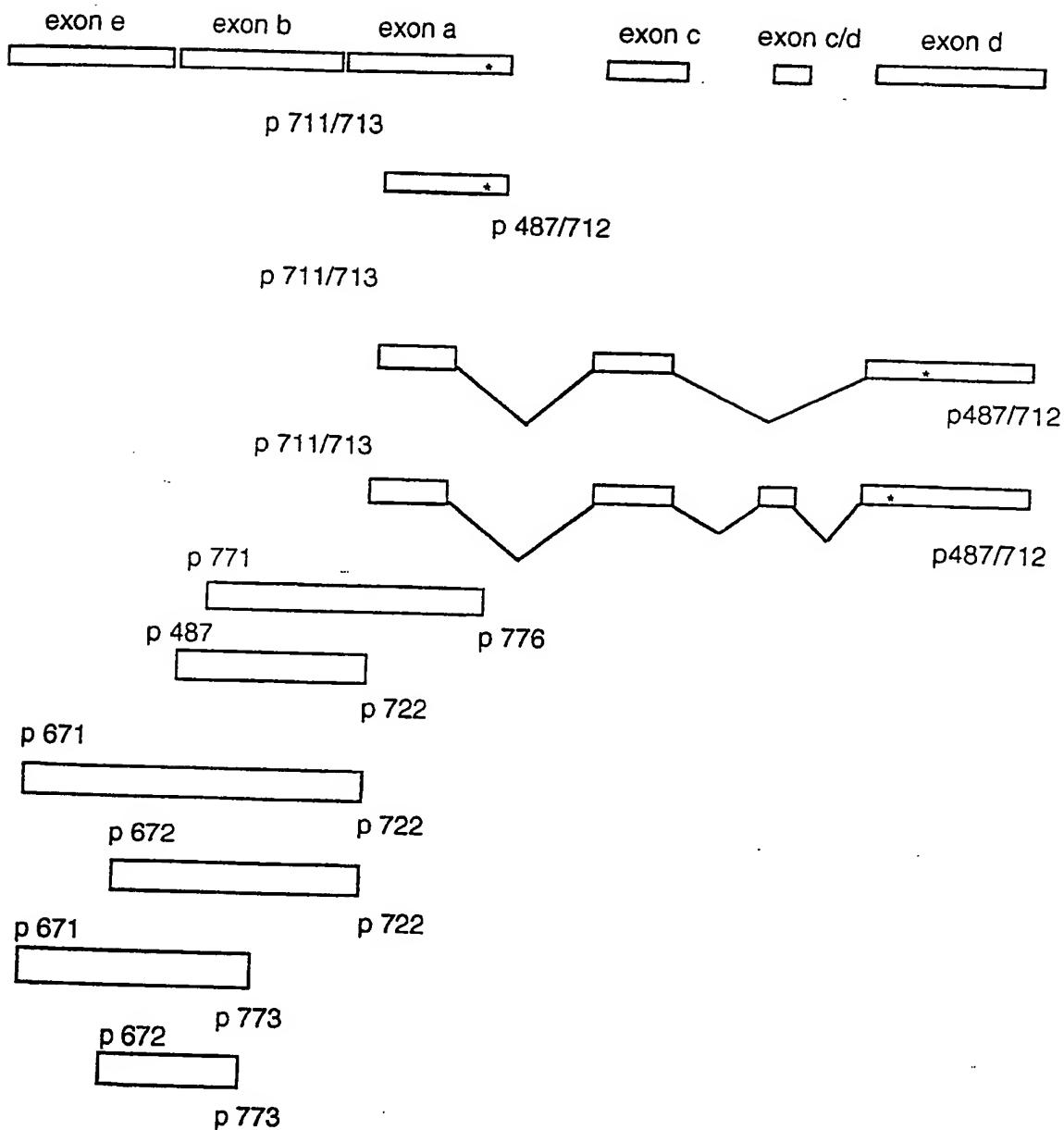


FIGURE 24

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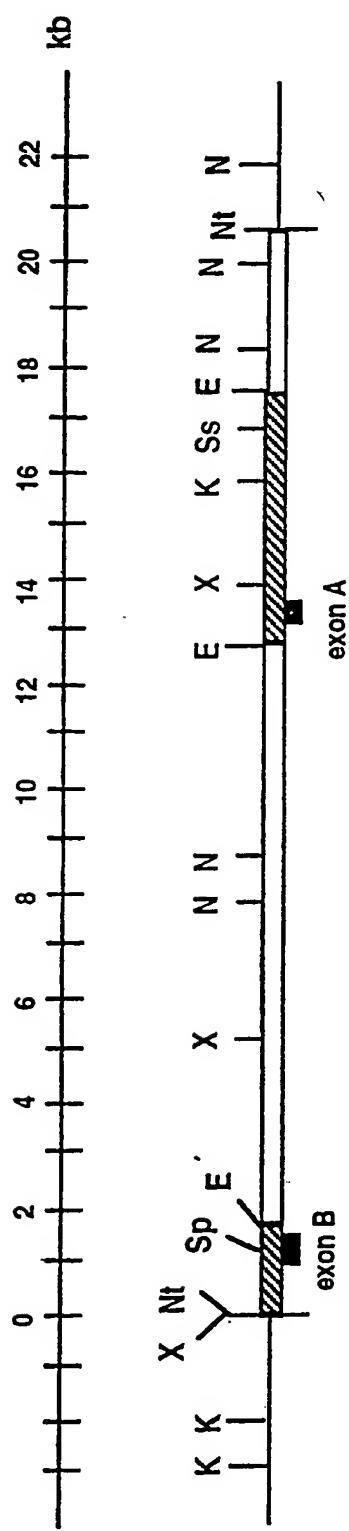


FIGURE 25

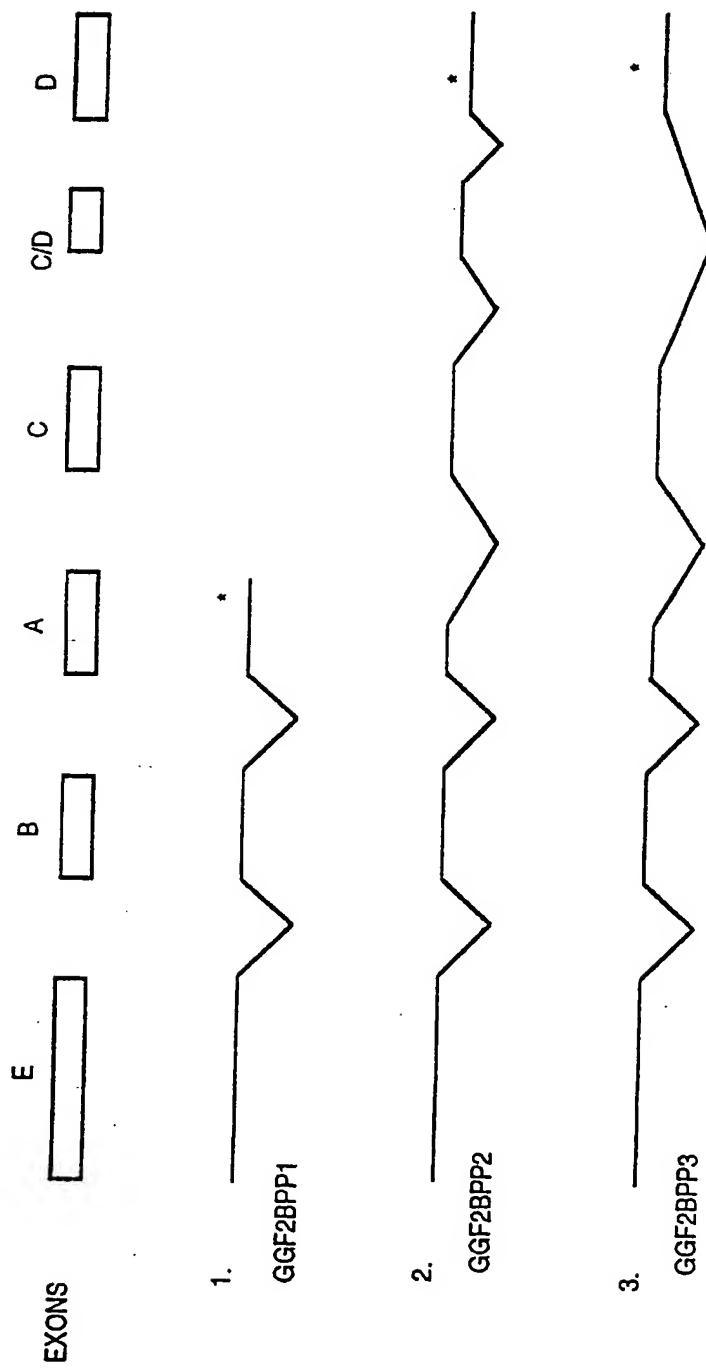


FIGURE 26

Peptide	Pos.	Sequence match
II-1		VHQVWAAK
	1:	HQVWAAK AAGLK
II-10		DLLLXV
	14:	GGLKK dslltv RLGAW
II-03		LGAWGPPAFTPVXY
	21:	LLTVR lgawghpafpscglRKED
II-02		YIFFMEPEAXSSG
	41:	KEDSR YIFFMEPEANSSG GPGRL
II-6		LVLR
	103:	VAGSK LVLR CETSS
I-18		EYKCLKFKWFKKATVM
	112:	CETSS eysslkfkwfknsgsel SRKKNK
II-12		KASLADSGEYMXK
	151:	ELRIS KASLADSGEYMCN VISKL
I-07		ASLADEYEYMRK
	152:	LRISK asladsgeymck VISKL

FIGURE 27

CCTGCAGCATcArgGTGGGGGGGAAAGCCGGGGCTTGAAAGAAAGACTCTGCTGCTCACCGTgCgCCTGGGCGCCCTGGggGCCACCCGGCCTTCCCTCC
 H Q V W A A K D S L L T V R L G A W H P A F P S 100

 TgCGGGGCCCTCAAGGAGGACAGCAGGTACATCTTCATGGAGCCGAGGGCCAAACAGCAAGCAGGCGGCGCCGCGCCGCGCCGCGCTtCCGAGGCCTCCTTCCCCCT
 C G R L K E D S R Y I F M E P E A N S G G P G R L P S L L P P S 200

 CTCGAGACGGGGAAACCTCAAGAAGGGAGTCAAGCCGGGTGCTGTGCAACqGTGGCCCTTGCCCTCCCGCTTGAAGAGATGAAGAGTCAGGAGTCTGT
 R D G P E P Q E G G Q P G A V Q R C A L P P R L K E M K S Q E S V 300

 GGCAGGTTCCAAACTAGTGCCTCGGTGAGACCAGTTCTGAATACTCCCTCTCAAGTTCAAGTGGCTCAAGAATGGGACTGaaATTAGGCCAAAGAAC 29/34
 A G S K L V L R C E T S S E Y S L K F K W F K N G S E L S R K N 400

 AAACCAAAACATCAAGATAACAGAAAAGCCGGGGAAAGTCAGAAACTTGCATTAGCAAAGGGTCACTGGCTGATTCTGGAGAAATAATATGTGCAAGTGA
 K P E N I K I Q K R P G K S E L R I S K A S L A D S G E Y M C K V I 500

 TCAGCAAACATAGGAATGACAGTGCCTCTGCCAACATCACCAACATTGGAGTCAGGAGTCAGGCTACTGGCTGCTATTCTCAAGTCTCTAAAGAGG
 S K L G N D S A N I T I V E S N G K R C L L R A I S Q S L R G 600

 AGTGAATCAAGGTATGTGGTCACACTTGAATCAGGCAGGTGTGAATCTCATTTGAAACAAATAAAATCATGAAAGGAAAAAAATATCG
 V I K V C G H T * 700

 ATGTCGACTCGAGATGTGGCTGCAGGTGCACTAGAGGATCCC

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FIGURE 28A

CCTGGCAGCATcARGTGTGGGGCgAAAGGACTGGCTTGAAAGAAGGACTGGCTCACCGTgCCTGGGCGCTGGGCGCTGGGCGCCCTTCCCCCTCC
 H Q V W A A K A G G L K K D S L L T V R L G A W G H P A F P S 100

 TgCGGGGCCCTCAAGGGGACAGCAGGTACATCTTCTTCATGGAGGCCAACAGCCGAGGGCAGGGGCGGCGCTTCCGAGGCCTCCCTCCCCCTCC
 C G R L K E D S R Y I F F M E P E A N S G C P G R L P S L L P P S 200

 CTCGAGACGGGGAAACCTCAAGGAAGGGGTCAGGGGGTGTGCTGGCCACGGTGGCTTCCGCTTGGCTTAAGGAGACTCAGGGAGCTCAGGCTGCTG
 R D G P E P Q E G G Q P G A V Q R C A L P P R L K E M K S Q E S V 300

 GGCAGGTTCACACTAGTGCTTGCGAGACCGAGTCTGAATACTCTCTGAAGTCAAGTTCAGTGGCTCAAGGAAATGGGAGCTGaaTAAGCCGAAAGAAC
 A G S K L V L R C E T S S E Y S L K F K W F K N G S E L S R K N 400

 AACCCAGAAACATCAAGATAACAGAAAGGGGGGAAGTCAGAACTTGGCATTAGCAAAGCGTCACTGGCTGATTCTGGAGAATATATGTGCAAAGTGA 30/34
 K P E N I K I Q K R P G K S E L R I S K A S L A D S G E Y M C K V I 500

 TCAGCAAACATAGGAAATGACAGGTGGCTCTGGCAACATCACATTGTGGAGTCAGGCAAGCCACATCCACATCTACAGCTGGACAAGGCCATCTTGTCAAGTG
 S K L G N D S A S A N I T I V E S N A T S T A G T S H L V K C 600

 TGCAGAGAAGGAGAAACTTCTGTGTGAATGGGGCAGTGCTCATGGTGAAGAGACCTTCAAGATACTTGTGCAAGTGCACACCTGGGA
 A E K E K T F C V N G G E C F M V K D L S N P S R Y L C K C Q P G 700

 TTCACTGGAGGAGATGTACTGAGAATGTGCCCATGAAAGTCCAACCAAGAAAGTGCCTTACTGGTGTGCTGCCAAACTACGTAAAT
 F T G A R C T E N V P M K V Q T Q E S A Q M S L L V I A A K T T * 800

FIGURE 28B
(PART)

GGCCAGGCTTCTACAGTACGTCCACTCCCTTCTGTCCTGCTGAATACGGCATCTCAGTGGTGCCTTCTGGCTTCTGGCATCTCCCTCAGATTCC
900
rccTAGAGCTAGATGGTTTACCAAGGTCTAACATTGACTGCCCTCTGCCCTGCTGCTGAGAACATTAAACACAAGGGATTGTATGACTTCCCTCTGTCCTG
1000
ACTAGTGGCTCTGAGCTACTCGTAGGTGCTTAAGGCTCCAGTGTGTTCTGAAATTACTGTGATACTGATAGTCCCTCTAACCCAG
1100
TGCAATGACAATAAAGGCCTTGAAAGTCAAAAAAAATCGATGTCGACTCGAGATGGCTGCAGGTGCACTCTAGAG

FIGURE 28B
(CONT'D)

CCTGCAGCATCAGTGTGGCGCGAAAGCCGGCTTGAAGAAGGACTCGCTCACCGTqGcqCTGGGCGCCCTGGGGCCACCCCCGGCTTCCCTCC
 H Q V W A A K A G G L K K D S L L T V R L G A W G H P A F P S
 100
 TgCGGGGCCTCAAGGGACAGCAGGTACATCTTCTTCATGGAGCCGAGGGCAACAGCAGGCGGCGGCGCCGCGCCGCGCCGCTTCCGAGCCCTCCTTCC
 C G R L K E D S R Y I F M E P E A N S S G G P R L P S L L P P S
 200
 CTCGAGACCGGGAAACCTCAAGAAGGAGGTCAAGCCGGGTGCTTGGCAACCGTGGCCTTGGCTTCCCGCCTGGAAAGAGATGAAGAGTCAGGAGTCAGTGT
 R D G P E P Q E G Q P G A V Q R C A L P P R L K E M K S Q E S V
 300
 GGCAGGTTCCAACATGCTGGGAGGACCTCAAGTGGGAGGAACTCTGAATACTCTCTCAAGTTCAAGTGGGAAATATATGTGCAAAGC
 A G S K L V L R C E T S S E Y S S L K F K W F K N G S E L S R K N
 400
 32/34
 AACCCAGAAACATCAAGATAACAGAAAAGGGGGGAAGTCAGAACTTCGCAATTAGCAAAGGGTCACTGGCTGATTCTGGAGAATATATGTGCAAAGTGA
 K P E N I K I Q K R P G K S E L R I S K A S L A D S G E Y M C K V I
 500
 TCAGCAAACATAGGAATGACAGTGCCTCTGGCCAACATCACCATTCGGAGTCAAACGCCACATCCACATCTACAGCTGGACAAGGCAATCTTGGTCAAAGTG
 S K L G N D S A S A N I T I V E S N A T S T A G T S H L V K C
 600
 TGCAGAGAAAGGAGAAAACATTCGCTCTGGGAATGGAGGCGAGTGGCTTCATGGTGAAGGACCTTCAAAATCCCTCAAGAGATACTTGTGCAAGTGC
 A E K E K T F C V N G G E C F M V K D I, S N P S R V L C K C P N E
 700
 TTTACTGGGATCGCTGGCCAAAACATACGTAATGGCCAGCTTCTACAGTACGGTCCACTCCCTTCTGCTCTGCCTGAATAAGGCATATCTCAGTGGTGGCG
 F T G D R C Q N Y V M A S F Y S T P F L S L P E *
 800

(FIGURE 28C
(PART))

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CTTCTTGGTTGCCGATCTCCCTCAGATTCGGCTAGGCTAGTGGCTTACCAAGGTTAACATGACTGCTCTGCGATGAGAACATTAA
900
CACAAAGCGATTTGATGACTTCCCTCTGTCGGTACTAGTGGCTCTGAGCTACTCGTAGGTGGTAAGGCTCCAGTGTCTGAAATTGATCTTGAATTAC
1000
TGTGATAACGACATGATAAGTCCCTCTCACCCAGTGCAATGACAATAAAAGGCCTTGAAAAAGTCAAAAAAAATCGATGTCGACTCGAGA
1100
TGTCGGCTG

FIGURE 28C
(CONT'D)

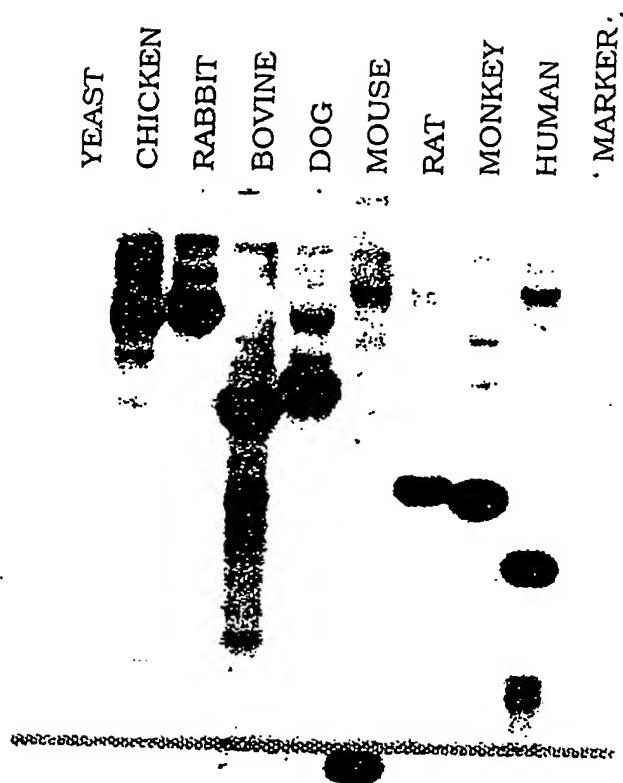
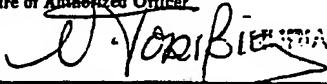


FIGURE 29

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/GB 92/00595

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶					
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC					
Int.C1.5 C 12 N 15/12 C 12 P 21/02 C 07 K 13/00 C 12 P 21/08 A 61 K 37/02 C 12 N 1/21 G 01 N 33/68 C 07 K 7/06, C 07 K 7/08					
II. FIELDS SEARCHED					
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷					
Classification System		Classification Symbols			
Int.C1.5		C 12 N	C 07 K	C 12 P	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸					
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹					
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²				Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	The Journal of Neuroscience, vol. 4, no. 1, January 1984, (Washington, DC, US), G.E. LEMKE et al.: "Identification and purification of glial growth factor", pages 75-83, see the whole article (cited in the application) ---				1-12, 15 -19, 21- 31, 40- 41
X	Methods in Enzymology, vol. 147, 1987, (Peptide Growth Factors, part B, edited by D. BARNES et al.), Academic Press, Inc., (New York, US), J.P. BROKES: "Assay and isolation of glial growth factor from the bovine pituitary", pages 217-225, see the whole document (cited in the application) ---				1-12, 15 -19, 21- 23, 33, 40-42 -/-
* Special categories of cited documents : ¹⁰ "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed					
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family					
IV. CERTIFICATION					
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search			Date of Mailing of this International Search Report		
17-06-1992			03.08.92		
International Searching Authority			Signature of Authorized Officer		
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE			 Ulf Torbjörn		

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		(CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)	
Category	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.	
X	The Journal of Cell Biology, vol. 110, no. 4, April 1990, (New York, US), J.B. DAVIS et al.: "Platelet-derived growth factors and fibroblast growth factors are mitogens for rat schwann cells", pages 1353-1360, see the whole document (cited in the application) ---	1-19, 21 -23, 40- 41	
A	World Patents Index, week 7123, class B04, AN=71-40056S, Derwent Publications Ltd, London, GB, & JP,A,46020832 (TEIKOKU HORMONE MANUF. LTD), see the abstract ---	1-3, 20	
X	The Journal of Biological Chemistry, vol. 255, no. 18, 25 September 1990, (US), J.P. BROCKES et al.: "Purification and preliminary characterization of a glial growth factor from the bovine pituitary", pages 8374-8377, see the whole article (cited in the application) ---	1-12, 15 -19, 21- 23, 33, 40-42	
A	Nature, vol. 348, no. 6298, 15 November 1990, (London, GB), H. KIMURA et al.: "Structure, expression and function of a schwannoma-derived growth factor", pages 257-260, see the whole article (cited in the application) -----		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 21, 23-31, 37
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Although claims 21(as far as it concerns *in vivo* treatment), 23-31, 37 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound.
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.